International events

2012

**Europerio 7**
Vienna, Austria
6–12 June
www.europerio7.com

**FDI Annual World Dental Conference**
Hong Kong, China
29 August–1 September
www.fdiworldental.org

**21st DGL Annual Conference**
Leipzig, Germany
7–8 September
www.dgl2012.de

**China Dental Show**
Xi’an Qujiang, China
13–15 September
www.ChinaDentalShow.com

**32nd Dental-Expo**
Moscow, Russia
17–20 September
www.dental-expo.com

**22nd Central European Dental Exhibition**
Poznan, Poland
20–22 September
www.cede.pl

**13th Slovak Dental Days**
Bratislava, Slovakia
27–29 September
www.incheba.sk

**42nd International Congress of DGZI**
Hamburg, Germany
5–6 October
www.dgzi-jahreskongress.de

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**20th Pragodent Dental Fair**
Prague, Czech Republic
11–13 October
www.pragodent.eu

**DenTech China**
Shanghai, China
24–27 October
www.dentech.com.cn
DGL annual conference in Leipzig, Germany

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The 21st annual conference of the German Society for Laser Dentistry (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Laserzahnheilkunde e.V., DGL) will take place from 7 to 8 September, 2012, in Leipzig, Germany. Particular focus is placed on laser as an integrative technology in dentistry.

Only a few scientific events in dentistry pay as much attention to laser and its various fields of clinical application as do the DGL annual conferences. The facts that various lasers make soft tissue surgery possible, free of hemorrhage or with only little bleeding, and that caries excavation and the preparation of cavities can be conducted free of pain via erbium lasers have become standard knowledge, at least among the members of the DGL. Other than the direct, visible and demonstrable effects of various kinds of lasers, however, secondary reactions and tissue changes are another interesting and impressive fact to note when it comes to laser dentistry. It is especially those interactions which are scientifically hard to follow and impossible to measure which have had a highly positive impact on the success of laser-supported therapy.

One of the internationally leading scientists, Prof Dr Chukuka S. Enwemeka from Milwaukee (USA) is going to give a speech on this phenomenon at the upcoming DGL annual conference. Under the topic “Biomodulation and Biostimulation”, Prof Dr Enwemeka is going to illustrate how visible infrared laser beams can have a positive influence on the surrounding tissues and especially single cells even in small doses.

In addition to photodynamic therapy, almost every field of laser application is put into focus at the conference, reaching from endodontology over periodontology to surgery. After all, laser applications have undergone a significant revaluation in recent years. Compared to conventional methods in dentistry, laser application often proves to be easier, faster and thus more efficient. Participants of the DGL annual conference will have the opportunity to catch up on the latest developments on the laser market on
the occasion of the accompanying dental trade fair in Leipzig. Parallel to the annual conference, Laser Start Up is designed to enable beginners in laser dentistry to acquire a professional knowledge base in order to enter this new field of expertise. In addition, workshops and hands-on courses will provide practical training in getting to know the various kinds of lasers.

The DGL party is the festive occasion concluding the DGL annual conference Saturday night at THE WESTIN LEIPZIG hotel. The accomplished combination of professional exchange and friendly gathering makes this year’s DGL annual conference an exceptional educational event._
“Scientifically, laser has now reached its highest standard”

On the occasion of the German Society for Laser Dentistry (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Laserzahnheilkunde e.V.) annual conference 2012 in September in Leipzig, Germany, Prof Dr Norbert Gutknecht of the University Hospital of RWTH Aachen, Germany, commented on the current situation of laser dentistry, the key issues of the upcoming DGL annual conference as well as the future of laser therapy in dentistry and the activities of the DGL.

Thirdly, economic efficiency plays a crucial role in any laser application. Therefore, another important aspect of this year’s congress is the new German Scale of Fees for Dentists (Gebührenordnung für Zahnärzte, GOZ). And last but not least, there is the social aspect. The success of last year’s DGL anniversary party has shown once more how important social values and friendships are nowadays. Our DGL party on Saturday is dedicated to combining the scientific interest we all have in common with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

___ How would you assess the current situation of laser dentistry? What are the main directions its development is going to take? What do you think will be the status of laser dentistry in five years?

Scientifically, laser dentistry has now reached its highest and most substantiated standard. Furthermore, laser is an integrative technology highly accepted by the professional organisations in medicine and dentistry. In my opinion, this shows how laser technology can take a decisive influence on the success of various therapies. Speaking of the main directions of the development of laser dentistry, we have to take three essential aspects into account: Firstly, there is the advancement of pico-second and femto-second lasers with regard to hard tissue applications. Secondly, laser-activated photodynamic therapy has become both more specialised and developed. Thirdly, therapy concepts for already existing laser systems are constantly being developed, which will lead to a significant growth in the sector of laser technology within the coming five years. This perspective is especially relevant for periodontology, endodontology, cariology, surgery, implantology and pedodontics.

DGL maintains a high profile, both nationally and internationally. Can you name current activities initiated or supported by the DGL?
Nationally, the DGL boards are intensively engaged in establishing statements and clinical treatment guidelines for the German Society for Dental and Oral Medicine (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahn-, Mund- und Kieferheilkunde, DGZMK). Furthermore, subgroups of the executive board and advisory boards are currently discussing the problem of interpreting and billing certain laser treatment options according to the new GOZ. Internationally, DGL is represented both in European and international laser societies. Moreover, not only are members of the DGL much sought-for speakers, but they also are entrusted with different additional tasks in their respective organisations.

Photodynamic therapy is going to be among the key topics of this year’s DGL conference. What is the current status of photodynamic therapy in laser dentistry and how relevant is it for the daily dental practice?

In the past, photodynamic therapy only played a secondary role or the role of the outsider, both in scientific research and in clinical applications. However, we have noticed a grown interest in this therapeutic branch since 2006, which has even more increased within the past two years. By now we can rely on different wavelengths and photosensitisers which have been scientifically tested and applied in clinical therapies. Nevertheless, the range of possible dental applications of lasers is still very limited, with the highest clinical relevance in periodontology: photodynamic therapy has proven a successful integrative method for the standardised procedures of periodontal treatment.

Prof Dr Gutknecht, thank you very much for this interview!