From 17 to 19 July 2016, Nagoya is going to host the 15th International WFLD Congress with Hajime Yamamoto and Isao Ishikawa as honorary presidents and Kenji Yoshida as the Chair of the Organising Committee. This year’s theme is going to be “Light to brighten the future”—illustrating the society’s endeavour to move away from traditional laser dentistry and dental care, towards new developments by incorporating light into both diagnosis and treatment.

Research and dental practice

As the submission period has already ended in May 2016, the congress organisers are now finalising the congress programme which is composed of invited lectures, symposiums, workshops, oral and poster sessions as well as exhibitions and seminars. International laser specialists from both engineering and medical fields, including dentistry, will assemble to deliver lectures and presentations on the latest scientific findings in their fields: Thus, the preliminary keynote lectures include topics such as “Er:YAG Laser Supported Endodontic Retreatment” by Adam Stabholz (Israel), Aldo Brugnera Junior (Brazil) and Ambrose Chan (Australia), “Low Level Laser Therapy in Esthetic Dentistry” by Carlos de Paula Eduardo (Brazil), Kenji Yoshida (Japan), Norbert Gutknecht (Germany) and Samir Nammour (Belgium), and “Current Surgical and Therapeutic Uses with Future Prospects for CO₂ Lasers in Oral and Maxillofacial” by Toni Zeinoun (Lebanon) and Umberto Romeo (Italy). The WFLD2016 organisers hope that the diverse programme will promote further advancement of academic research and clinical applications, heralding “the beginning of a new development of medical devices and a new expansion of the industry in Japan”.

High scientific standards

Strict criteria and high standards were applied to reviewing the scientific abstracts. For example, all submissions with regard to research and studies on human or animal subjects must abide by the Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association, which provides guiding principles for experimental procedures. Furthermore, they must be approved by an IRB (institutional review board). In addition, the WFLD2016 Programme Committee has established...
its own set of submission guidelines (please see congress homepage for further information).

**WFLD Basic Laser Certification**

In order to give official accreditation for passing a test on the basic knowledge of laser dentistry, WFLD has developed a special Laser Certification course. Lecturers will be high-calibre international professionals who are well-experienced in dental laser applications.

**15th anniversary in Japan**

WFLD’s history started in 1988 with the foundation of ISLD (International Society for Laser in Dentistry). In the same year, the first International Congress of Laser Dentistry was held in Tokyo, Japan. Ever since then, the society has been active as an international organisation for laser dentistry, holding its international congresses every two years in different locations. After 14 years, WFLD2016 is going to be the third congress taking place in Japan. Since 2002, the JSLD (Japanese Society for Laser Dentistry) has served as a full WFLD member. History is coming full circle as Hajime Yamamoto, professor emeritus at Tokyo Medical and Dental University and ISLD’s first president, is this year’s WFLD Congress president. Isao Ishikawa, professor emeritus at Tokyo Medical and Dental University and this year’s second congress president, already was appointed congress president in 2002.

**Industry meets history**

Nagoya is rich in both history and industry. Located at the centre of Honshu, Japan’s main island, it is home to traditional industries such as ceramics and textiles as well as modern industrial branches like automobiles, aviation and machine tools. Not only does Nagoya thus play an important role in Japan’s industry, but it also has become an international city of a population of 2.24 million people.

Nagoya’s main sites mirror this dichotomy of history and modernism: On the one hand, Nagoya is famous for its castle. Crafted in 1612, its magnificent gold-plated kinshachi (tiger-headed dolphins) on the topmost castle roof are notoriously the most wonderful of all kinshachi in Japan. On the other hand, Nagoya hosted the World Design Expo in 1989, leading to aesthetic developments and modernisations in its infrastructure. A major aspect of these changes, which is still predominant today, is Nagoya’s famous light illumination, creating a comfortable and safe atmosphere for citizens and visitors alike. This modern influence is also palpable in Nagoya’s famous environment-friendly Oasis 21 area, combining parks, public and commercial facilities. Spaceship-Aqua, a modern-design shopping complex illuminated by large-scale LEDs and fed on well water, has become its flagship. Its axis pointing towards Nagoya Castle, this piece of modern architecture builds a bridge to Nagoya’s ancient history.

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**Fig. 2:** Fountain and cherry-blossom trees in Nagoya.
**Fig. 3:** Nagoya Castle.
**Fig. 4:** Spaceship-Aqua in Oasis 21, one of Nagoya’s design flagships.
“I want to spend the rest of my life studying light”

Munich—Venue of the 25th DGL Congress

Author: Claudia Jahn, Germany

Born in Munich, legendary scientist Albert Einstein, made this quote in 1905, at a time when the nature of light was a highly discussed and controversial topic in modern physics and especially quantum physics. One hundred years later, the mechanisms of light have become an integral part in all aspects of society, science, and especially medicine. This year’s International Annual DGL Congress returns to Einstein’s birthplace: From 30 September to 1 October 2016, Munich will be hosting the 25th anniversary of the event which will illuminate laser-light applications in dentistry.

The city of dreams

The city of Munich is renowned for its relaxed and joyful way of life, its big heart, its green parks and its vast cultural landscape. Founded in 1158 as Apud Monichen—Latin for “Home of the Monks”—near a Benedictine monastery, Munich today is Germany’s third-largest German community. With more than 1.4 million inhabitants, the Bavarian capital is home to 2 million people in its metropolitan area alone, among them more than 50,000 students at 13 different universities and enjoys a first-rate reputation as a competence centre for science and medicine. More than 90 museums, a rich theatre landscape and, of course, the typically Bavarian beer gardens will make sure that any visitor will find a place to pass the time. Contrarily to its monastic originals, this mixture makes for anything but a tranquil lifestyle.

However, Munich is also called the German city of dreams because of its romantic landscape and architecture. This includes the many buildings designed by
King Ludwig I, among them the Siegestor, the Königspalat, and the Ruhmeshalle. Other famous Munich sites are the Old and New Town Halls, the Frauenkirche and Maximilianstraße, one of Munichs integral boulevards. Munich’s modern architecture is exemplified by the Allianz Arena, the internationally renowned football stadium. In addition, Munich features an abundance of parks, among them the famous English Garden, which is bigger than New York’s Central Park.

**More than beer: diverse industry**

Munich’s vast cultural landscape is balanced by its diverse industry. The city has become a centre of banking and finances as well as print, publishing and television. Furthermore, it features manufacturers of precision instruments, optical and electrical as well as high technology appliances, among them important branches of aerospace industry. In addition, you can find one of Europe’s largest wholesale markets for vegetables, fruits and animal produce in Munich. And of course, finally, the Bavarian capital is home to several of Germany’s largest breweries. Industry and Munich’s general joy de vivre come together in celebrating the brewery sector every year with the famous Oktoberfest.

**Oktoberfest**

Munich’s Oktoberfest originally started as a celebration of the marriage between Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese in 1810. The name Oktoberfest presumably was coined when these celebrations culminated in a grand horse race on 17 October in this year. More than 200 years later, Oktoberfest is still held at the original venue Theresienwiese, located in Munich’s borough Ludwigsvorstadt-Isarvorstadt south-west of the city centre. In 2015, the site was visited by more than 6 million people from around the world. This year, even more visitors are expected.

**25th International Annual DGL Congress**

On this year’s last Oktoberfest weekend, DGL will hold its 25th International Annual Congress in Munich. Parallely to LASER START UP, the 46th DGZI Congress, the 7th Munich Forum and the 5th Oral Hygiene Day, the two-day event will feature top-level speeches and workshops to enlighten its visitors on all aspects of modern laser dentistry. In addition, participants are invited to a culinary trip through Munich, combining sightseeing via the Munich tram, a diversity of culinary specialities and exclusive musical entertainment by a local DJ.

For more information on the 25th International Annual DGL Congress, please visit www.dgl-jahrestagung.de.

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