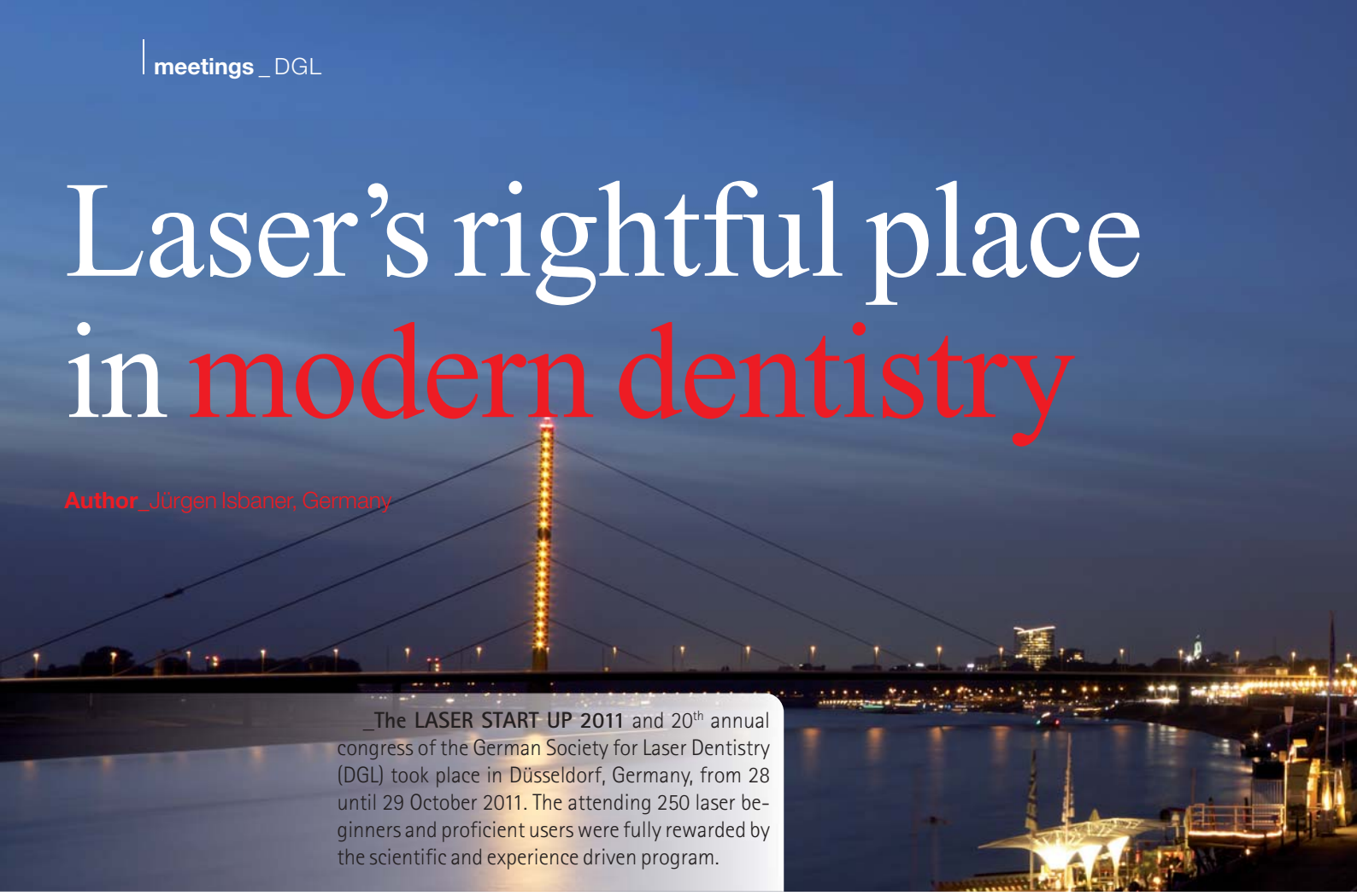
Laser's rightful place in modern dentistry

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_**The LASER START UP 2011** and 20th annual congress of the German Society for Laser Dentistry (DGL) took place in Düsseldorf, Germany, from 28 until 29 October 2011. The attending 250 laser beginners and proficient users were fully rewarded by the scientific and experience driven program.

In many respects the laser market developed extremely well in the past. Not least, this is reflected in a wide range of modern and very effective lasers. Due to the effort to integrate the laser dentistry more and more into individual areas such as implantology, periodontics and endodontics, it becomes increasingly easy to fight for the laser's rightful place in modern dentistry. Significant contributions for achieving this goal are the two laser-related conventions in Germany, the annual conference of the German Society for Laser Dentistry (DGL) and the LASER START UP congress.

The annual congress of the DGL builds on existing skills and provides a versatile program for continuing education regarding new applications of lasers in the dental office. The LASER START UP offers the ideal opportunity to make beginners familiar with the basics of laser dentistry and the latest laser technology.

_Undisputed advantages of laser treatment

For more than 30 years the laser is used as a tool for therapy and diagnosis in medicine and dentistry. Its advantages over conventional methods, such as touch-free and sterile working or the reduced tissue trauma, are mostly undisputed. In addition, the specificity of laser light allows the development of completely new treatment and surgical techniques.

_Laser is worth it

In the past there were mainly two reasons why the almost unlimited spectrum of indications of lasers in dental practices has not kept the unbroken triumph: First, there were not any universal lasers in the past and secondly, using the laser compared to conventional









instruments was relatively expensive. However, things have changed. The latest generation of lasers is flexible, powerful and ultimately economic. Still, the laser is not superior to conventional therapies. But, and this is crucial, the laser can be much simpler, faster, and in the relationship between effort and result more efficient. In times of cost pressure there is a significant opportunity for the laser: In regard of the technical level and the diversity of applications, dental lasers have never been as good as today. It has been proved, for example, that the laser reaches excellent results in dental surgery or endodontic and periodontal therapy, especially in the treatment of peri-implantitis.

_Education and training for beginners and users

Under the scientific leadership of Prof Dr Norbert Gutknecht (Aachen, Germany) Prof Dr Herbert Deppe (Munich, Germany) and Dr George Bach (Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany) both, the DGL-annual conference and the LASER START UP offered first-class speakers that covered all aspects of laser use in daily practice in a comprehensive scientific program, hands-on courses and workshops of the leading laser manufacturers.

Thus, the joined conference in Düsseldorf was a valuable training event for both, experienced laser users and beginners.

In the upcoming year, both the LASER START UP 2012 and the annual congress of the DGL will be held in the city of Leipzig, Germany, on the 7 and 8 September 2012._

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