

Ten years of DGEndo and the launch of DGET

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Thursday: Pre-congress and general meeting

The first Annual Meeting of the DGET began with a pre-congress event featuring six industry workshops. Since root-canal preparation (RCP) is an important and recurring issue in practice, a range of automated RCP systems with various features was presented. Prof. Michael Baumann, for instance, presented a system for implementing the crown-down method following a specified instrument sequence.

Drs Christoph Zirkel and Josef Diemer discussed RCP with reciprocating motion, a frequent topic of debate over recent months. Here, the reduced risk of instrument breakage and rapid preparation after the glide path has been established is of particular interest to most colleagues. However, in addition to the benefits, the weaknesses and limitations of these new systems were also discussed. The often-advocated one-file endo approach cannot always be implemented.

In his lecture, Dr Christian Gernhardt followed along the same lines, stating that "it is ok to use more than one file". He highlighted the advantages and

From 3 to 5 November, over 450 guests broke visitor records during the tenth Annual Meeting of the German Society of Endodontology (DGEndo) held at the Kameha Grand hotel in Bonn, Germany. The meeting simultaneously marked the end of DGEndo and the launch of the German Society of Endodontology and Traumatology (DGET). With an excellent programme and an impressive line-up of international speakers, the meeting was probably the most important German endodontics event of the year.



Dr Christian Gernhardt



Dr Christoph Zirkel



3-D presentation

disadvantages of various file systems and offered advice on how to react to specific anatomical features to ensure treatment success.

In his workshop entitled *From hot to cold*, Dr Dieter Pahncke explained preparation methods with ultra-flexible files and discussed various filling techniques.

I presented a workshop—*Documentation with the dental microscope*—that was met with great interest. Participants were able to examine and test many of the solutions currently offered by the industry. Twelve different documentation solutions were presented, a number that is testimony to the depth and complexity of the field. Of enormous interest were the fundamental physics—not necessarily simple but nonetheless important—that clearly illustrated the limits posed by optics. However, a whole range of practical tips was offered on how to make documentation more useful.

Members attending the general meeting in the evening were given a clear outline of the current efforts and achievements of the board. During the elections, board members were re-elected unani-

mously, demonstrating confidence in the existing board and its strategies in promoting the society's interests. The day closed with a good meal in a relaxed atmosphere.

Friday: Main congress and birthday party

The main scientific programme was opened by Dr Christian Gernhardt in an excellent manner, as always. He was followed by Prof Marco Versiani, who presented fascinating μ CT images of the complex root-canal anatomy and clearly and skilfully put these images in the context of our everyday clinical work. Thereafter, Dr Arnaldo Castellucci gave a concise yet entertaining summary of improvements in non-surgical endodontics. He focused on the use of ultrasonic instruments in endodontic treatment and the establishment of a glide path for subsequent rotary preparation.

After an excellent lunch, the programme continued with an insight into the fascinating field of adhesion to dentine following endodontic treatment. Prof Junji Tagami from Tokyo demonstrated this complex issue in a clear and interesting manner. The essence of



Prof Michael Baumann



Prof Syngueuk Kim



Kameha Grand

Photographs courtesy of Eric Müller,
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his lecture was that chemically altered dentine does not allow for complete adhesion. Therefore, fresh dentine has to be uncovered by mechanically removing the altered layer, if good adhesion is to be achieved.

Prof Markus Haapasalo from Vancouver—without a doubt one of the most experienced researchers and clinicians in his field worldwide—spoke on the highly complex issue of treatment planning and disinfection of canal structures and gave a very good insight into possible disinfection strategies.

The day ended with a big birthday celebration in the Puregold Bar at the Kameha Grand. In his speech on the occasion of DGEndo's tenth anniversary, Dr Hans-Willi Herrmann gave an interesting insight into the history of the society—naturally, in his very own inimitable style that had the audience laughing on several occasions. Celebrations in the bar then continued into the early hours.

Saturday: Main congress

The following day began with a lecture by Prof Thomas Kvist from Gothenburg, which was well attended despite the partying the previous evening. He spoke on success rates in endodontics and their significance for strategic treatment planning.

Dr Roy Nesari from San Francisco then gave a most entertaining presentation on the marketing concept at his endodontic practice. He explained his particular focus on communication with referring physicians, staff motivation and practice development. He certainly raised a number of interesting aspects regarding marketing, while maintaining participants' interest and offering useful ideas.

Prof Roland Weiger from Basel gave the audience an extremely comprehensive update on dental traumatology. According to Prof Weiger, developments in trauma treatment are far advanced and it is important to put this fundamental issue back into focus. His extremely informative lecture was followed by an announcement that a smartphone app—a detailed and handy reference for correct and rapid therapy planning—is to be developed in collaboration with the DGET in 2012.

3-D live operation: The grand finale

The highlight of this year's congress was the microsurgical apicectomies carried out live on two lower molars by Prof Syngcuk Kim. Particularly exciting for participants, the procedure was projected live in 3-D thanks to technology from Zeiss. As always, it was both fascinating and inspiring to watch such an experienced surgeon. Prof Kim had already operated live during the very first annual DGEndo meeting in 2001. With his participation in the tenth annual congress, we have come full circle.

This event clearly was a milestone. Looking back at ten successful years of DGEndo and one year after the foundation of the DGET, we are in an excellent position to drive forward endodontic advances in Germany.

"Ten years of DGEndo came to a close this weekend and that is how it should be. The first annual convention of the DGET was a clear testimony to just how dynamically our field is developing," commented Dr Christoph Zirkel. "Never before have we welcomed so many participants, have so many students registered, have we launched so many new and exciting projects in just one weekend. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank all those who have given us their support and had confidence in us. We will make every effort to continue to earn the trust placed in us." _

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