2nd Pan-hellenic Congress for Laser Dentistry

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Fig. 1_Prof Norbert Gutknecht lecturing on the pre-congress workshop.
Fig. 2_Greek colleagues being taught the secrets of working with a laser by Prof Gutknecht.

_The second Pan-hellenic Congress for laser Dentistry was held during 27-29 March 2009 in Athens. Greek Society for Laser Dentistry (GSLD) organised a complete three-day program at Hotel Titania, right in the heart of Athens under the title: "Lasers in Dentistry: The new clinical reality".

GSLD as the first and only academic society in Greece was honored to welcome the President of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry (WFLD), Professor Norbert Gutknecht as the key lecturer of the congress. For the first time in Greece a President of WFLD attended such an event, supporting our continuously growing society. Together with Dr Jan Tuner, famous for his work and studies in LLLT, Prof Kiriaki Marti from the University of Athens and also with the presentations from MSc members of GSLD, a high quality Congress for the Greek dentist was produced.

Starting on Friday afternoon a 4-hour pre-congress hands-on workshop took place. The participants had the unique opportunity to participate on a two hour seminar on Basic Laser Physics from Prof Norbert Gutknecht and the next two hours to work with all the latest laser devices from the whole range of companies that produce them.

Due to the amount of applications the organising committee had to extend the number of allowed participants to 32. After the completion of the workshop Prof Norbert Gutknecht handed out the workshop certificates to the participants.

On Saturday the Congress opened by welcome speeches of the President of GSLD, Dr Dimitris Strakas and of the President of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry Prof Norbert Gutknecht.

The program started with the lecture of Prof Kiriaki Marti about 'Face and neck rejuvenation with the use of laser'. She is a Professor of Oral and maxillofacial surgery department in the University of Athens.

Numerous aspects of laser dentistry were covered by the lectures of GSLD members. Amongst others reviews, new studies, and clinical presentations have been showed to the audience regarding endodontic treatment, periodontology, cavity preparation and laser tooth bleaching.

Of great importance was the lecture of the next keynote lecturer, Dr Jan Tuner who is a board







Fig. 3_Congress participant being informed on AALZ's booth.
Fig. 4_Night out at famous Restaurant 'Theofilos'. On the left Mrs Io, the well-known restaurant owner.

member of WALT—World Association for Laser Therapy. He presented the lecture "Laser phototherapy—widening the scope of general dentistry" which showed in detail how useful and therapeutic to our patients can be the correct use of low level laser radiation in every day occurrences to our practice.

Of course during the coffee and lunch breaks, the participants had the opportunity to visit the booths of the companies that were in the Congress Exhibition. The companies were completely satisfied by the organisation of the exhibition, the attendance and the time offered to them to exhibit their new products in the main Hall room.

On Sunday two lectures of Prof Norbert Gutknecht was the summit of the Congress. Two main lectures on lasers on Periodontology and a conclusive lecture about the future of lasers in Dentistry kept the audience literally 'on their toes', absorbing the huge amount of information that was offered to them by our President.

But the meeting is not only lectures and presentations. Proving their strong bonds of the societies the evenings were not typical dinners, but really a gathering of friends or to be more precise of a family. The food, the music, and the singing of the company made this truly, a night to remember

The end of the second Pan-hellenic Congress found the Greek colleagues more than satisfied to be present on such a great event, making them intrigued and stimulated to improve or in some cases, motivated to involve in laser dentistry. More than 130 participants registered and 18 new members joined the family of WFLD through this Congress.

Greek Society for Laser Dentistry is a pioneer society in Greek laser dentistry. With the unlimited assist of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry we try to serve the aim of our family, which is to exchange, advance and disseminate scientific knowledge, related to the use of lasers for application and research in the oral and dental environment in our country. The bonds of GSLD and WFLD will remain strong and intact and hopefully annually this Congress will be a successful meeting point for the Greek dentists._