

# Dear Reader,

**Ten years ago, in January 2002**, the German Society of Endodontology (DGEEndo) was founded. Full of enthusiasm, the 13 founding members pursued their goal of shaking up the endodontic world. In no time, a statute had been written, a home page and logo designed and the first annual meeting planned. Today, there are more than 1,000 registered members and the enthusiasm is still tangible. In light of this development, the German Society for Conservative Dentistry (DGZ) and the DGEEndo decided to join forces and formed the German Society of Endodontology and Traumatology (DGET). The first annual meeting was held in Bonn last year – a great start for a successful merger.

What began ten years ago with the use of modern technology has rapidly developed in recent years. Literature research on iPads during a presentation, lectures on mobile phones, apps and videos on YouTube are now available to many. This globalisation is also reflected in the representation of nationalities from all over the world amongst speakers at conferences and in the instant availability of the latest information and news.

Last year, a child born in Manila was symbolically named the world's seven billionth baby by the UN. Never before had that many people simultaneously lived on earth. According to the BBC, about 77 billion people have lived on our planet since the beginning of human history.<sup>1</sup> Thanks to the Internet, social networks and search engines, we now have virtually unlimited and rapid access to the knowledge mankind has accumulated thus far. In this context, endodontics has also experienced an explosion of factual knowledge and technological development in recent years. Furthermore, medicine, biology, chemistry, physics and engineering have become intermeshed in technology that offers never-before-seen speed and perfection. Today, in addition to the more technically oriented innovations, such as NiTi, reciprocating one-file systems or the technologically fascinating self-adjusting file, as well as an immense variety of new irrigation concepts, more biologically oriented ideas are taking shape.

In the April 2007 issue of the *Journal of Endodontics*, Kenneth M. Hargreaves called on researchers around the world to combine the available knowledge and to join efforts in the field of tissue regeneration in endodontics.<sup>2</sup> The collected ideas ranged from the revascularisation of the root canal to stem-cell therapy, pulp implants, 3-D polymer scaffolds, injectable 3-D cell printing and gene therapy. Today, some of these ideas have already found their way into our practices, such as triple antibiotic paste (metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, minocycline). Teeth with incomplete root growth and necrosis of the pulp treated with this paste show good development of the dentine–pulp complex in the form of good root development.<sup>3</sup>

Back in 2005, we succeeded in creating artificial dental and bone tissue in the laboratory.<sup>4</sup> Researchers<sup>5–8</sup> have been working on creating human teeth in test tubes for many years. Today, the daily press even reports about such news and, thus, endodontic topics have been made available to the whole world. Even though we only cover one of many sectors, these prospects hold significant implications for both specialists and patients, and keep us moving forward with enthusiasm and scientific curiosity.

Yours faithfully,



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*Editorial note: A complete list of references is available from the publisher.*