WFLD appoints Prof Dr Norbert Gutknecht as new president

_**Prof Dr Norbert Gutknecht**, Professor at the Department of Conservative Dentistry, Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry at the RWTH Aachen University, has been appointed as new President of the World Federation of Laser Dentistry, WFLD, on 30 July 2008. The WFLD, founded in 1988 in Tokyo, Japan, is a non-profit organisation promoting exchange, advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge, encouraging the use of lasers for application and research in the oral and dental environment. Its 20,000 members are spread over five regions (North-America, South-America, Europe, Middle-East-Africa, Asian-Pacific). Membership is highly encouraged: people who are interested in research, development and the use of laser technology in the field of dentistry, medicine and surgery are welcome to enhance communication between all levels of laser technology, thereby seeking to improve standards in laser dentistry, to further education, research and development and to offer meetings for the exchange of ideas and methodology in the field of laser dentistry. The latest World Congress took place in Hong Kong from 28–30 July 2008 and was scientifically very successful with more than 650 participants and 230 lectures. 25 German dentists attended the Congress. Besides Prof Gutknecht, Prof Frentzen (President of the European region of the WFLD and Secretary-General of the German Society for Laser in Dentistry), Associate Professor Dr Braun, Dr Berger, Dr Borchers, Dr Brader, Dr Brede, Dr Brink, Dr Ingenegeren, Dr Meister, Dr Klaus, Dr Kleemann, Dr Koort and Dr Schindler participated in the programme.

For the next two years, Prof Dr Gutknecht takes over the presidency of the World Federation of Laser Dentistry and will be responsible for organizing the next World Congress in March 2010, taking place in Dubai, UAE. Since 18 years, Prof Dr Gutknecht has been one of the leading experts in the field of laser in dentistry. He is one of the founder members and has been the President of the German Society for Laser Dentistry since 2005. Additionally, he is the Scientific Director of the first accredited Professional Master in Dentistry, the Master of Science (MSc) in Lasers in Dentistry, which is taught at the University of Excellence RWTH Aachen University, at the RWTH International Academy. Since 2004, more than 80 dentists from all over the world have graduated successfully. As the Scientific Director of the Professional Master Prof Dr Gutknecht was awarded with the Bronze Award for "Life-long learning" of the European Union in 2006. The next German taught Professional Master Course will start on 16 March 2009 in Aachen, Germany. The programme is also offered in English language at RWTH Aachen University, starting on 14 September 2009, and in Dubai, UAE, on 9 November 2009._

Worldwide Dental Laser Societies

NDLS – Nordic Dental Laser Society

_**Nordic Dental Laser Society (NDLS)** is a non-profit educational association with members primary from the Nordic Countries. It has no commercial interest, nor is it bound to any industrial or commercial enterprise. It was established 2006 in Copenhagen (as Norsola) and has today nearly 100 members. The aim of the Society is the promotion and evidence based dissemination of knowledge in the use of lasers in dentistry and oral/maxillofacial surgery and the corresponding equipment and techniques. The objectives of the Society is: to promote the exchange of ideas and information within a fully integrated Nordic network, to establish standards of operation for laser technologies, to strengthen relations with other branches of medicine and with other societies, professional and scientific groups, to intensify cooperation between universities and research institutes, etc. in order to foster joint research, to promote and coordinate post graduate studies

The NDLS has arranged three Symposium in

Copenhagen and Stockholm with invited speakers from leading educational and scientific Universities and Institutes from Europe. The program has been designed to enriched the participants knowledge in Science and the practical use of Lasers in Dentistry.

Further more educational postgraduate studies, courses and workshops on University level will be started under 2009 (in Stockholm and Copenhagen) as well as the invitation of leading speakers in different meetings. The education will be in co-operation with the most prominent. Educational Institutes in Lasers in Dentistry, which ensures the quality of the studies in this most advanced treatment method in Dentistry. Members of the NDLS-board will also actively assisted the authorities to provide adequate regulations and recommendations for the dentists working with laser-assisted dentistry. NDLS board are also welcoming interested persons, associations, institutes etc from outside The Nordic countries to join us._

GSLD – Greek Society for Laser Dentistry

_Our epoch's dentistry presents a highest pace advance. A plethora of new materials fabricated with high standards in addition to contemporary treatment techniques are offered to the current dental science. Accordingly, the anticipation concerning the dental prognosis is diminuating. Lasers in dentistry proved to be more than a trend in high tech dental treatment and defeated any barren skepticism, becoming a substantial adjunctive tool in the hands of the modern clinician. The Greek Society for Laser Dentistry—GSLD—stands for the branch of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry—WFLD—in Greece and was founded in 2006. GSLD presented itself in November 2006 during the 26th Annual Greek Dental Congress held in Athens as the first and only academic society in this field. The participants of the congress along with the dental companies had then the opportunity to be informed about the causes of this academic and non profit society. GSLD came also in contact with didactic personnel of the two Dental Schools of the country and was estimated as a trustworthy team, since all of its members have or are in the process of completing studies in the field of dental lasers, competing the standards of European Union's directives. Catalytic was also the presence of RWTH Aachen University and AALZ Institute during the congress.

_Continuing education

GSLD defines its causes in an effort to synchronize and harmonize the modern Greek clinician with the technology of LASER in dentistry. Through hands on workshops and continuing education seminars organized by Academics from around the world as well as its founding members, it intends to provide gnostic practices, to promote research, to stimulate participation in international congresses and courses and to familiarize dental personnel, dentists, dental students, dental companies and patients with this field of dental science. GSLD members have an active presence in international congresses transmitting all new research data and techniques to the Greek dental public differentiating it from simple user of a LASER to an educated operator of a tool. GSLD is proud to collaborate with RWTH Aachen Dental School, the AALZ Institute, Frauenhoffer Institute, the Dental Laser Academy and affiliated LASER dental societies around the world. GSLD is a private legal entity and has an elected five member board consisting of President Dimitrios Strakas DDS, MSc, Vice-president Vasileios Zarganis DDS, MSc, Secretary-General Dr. Dimitrios Charoulis DDS, MSc, Treasurer Athanasios Tselios DDS, MSc, and Member Athanasios Poulios DDS, MSc.

_GSLD Congress

In March 2008 the first National GSLD Symposium took place and was coronated with success. The Symposium beared the title "Implantology and LASER Dentistry" and among speakers where invited colleques from abroad together with professors of the laser department in Athens Polytechnic School. Keeping the promise of an annual congress, GSLD organizes this year on March 27 to 29 the 2nd National Congress titled "LASER in Dentistry: New Clinical Reality" in Athens. Honored speaker of this year's congress, is the president of WFLD Prof Dr Norbert Gutknecht, who will also demonstrate the operation of several dental LASER apparatus during the hands on workshops. Adding to the most of interest presentation of Dr Jan Tuner from Sweden, those of the GSLD members the Greek dental audience will experience a three days brainstorm in the fields of LASER appliance in everyday dental practice.

We hope that the latest in dental technology to streamline the patients' treatment will once again attract and satisfy the active participants._