Focus on laser: Annual Congress of the DGL and LASER START UP 2014

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_On 26 and 27 September, members of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Laserzahnheilkunde (German Association of Laser Dentistry, DGL) met for the association's 23rd Annual Congress in Duesseldorf in Germany. Parallel to the congress, LASER START UP 2014 was held in collaboration with and under the scientific guidance of the DGL. At both events, novices in the field of laser dentistry, as well as experienced users, learnt about the technical possibilities of current lasers and their integration into various dental treatment procedures. More than 500 people attended the joint event, which combined the annual congresses of the DGL and of the German Association of Dental Implantology, LASER START UP 2014, and Oral Hygiene Day 2014, in the Rhine metropolis.



Fig. 1

Fig. 1_DGL president Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht opened the 23rd annual congress.

The use of technology has permeated many aspects of daily practice in dentistry; nevertheless, minimally invasive technologies, such as laser, are not yet widely used in dentistry. During the annual meeting, the DGL and LASER START UP informed participants about laser technology and its applications. The theme of the meeting was "Microinvasive—minimally invasive: Integrative laser technology", and Prof. Norbert Gutknecht (Aachen, Germany) and Dr Georg Bach (Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany) chaired the scientific programme committee for both events.

_Lasers in dentistry

On Friday morning, Prof. Gutknecht, President of the DGL, opened the two-day congress with a lecture on bundled light. He was followed by top-class speakers, including Prof. Hendrik Meyer-Lueckel (Aachen), Dr Michael Hopp (Berlin, Germany), Prof. Matthias Frentzen (Bonn, Germany), Dr Collin Jacobs (Mainz, Germany), Prof. Andreas Braun (Marburg, Germany), Dr Michael Krech (Marburg) and Ruth Schulte-Luenzum (Aachen). The researchers offered





Fig. 2


Fig. 3



Fig. 4


Fig. 5

Fig. 2_The scientific programme offered a lot of interesting presentations. – **Fig. 3**_At the information booth of the DGL. – Fig. 4_At the dental exhibition, participants learnt about the latest products. – **Fig. 5**_Dr Georg Bach at LASER START UP 2014.


Fig. 6


Fig. 7

Fig. 6_ Prof. Gilles Chaumanet from Nice, France.
Fig. 7_The DGL board at the members meeting, from left: Dr Thorsten Kleinert, Dr Matthias Frentzen, Dr Detlef Klotz, Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht, Dr Stefan Grümer.

insights into their current work, demonstrating the various application possibilities of laser.

In the afternoon, the DGL held its members' meeting. Directly afterwards, the scientific programme continued with interesting presentations by Prof. Gilles Chaumanet (Nice, France), Dr Michael Schaefer (Duesseldorf), Dr Rene Franzen (Aachen), Dr Darius Moghtader (Oppenheim, Germany), Dr Claudia Dehn (Bonn), Dr Florian Stelzle (Erlangen, Germany) and Dr Thorsten Kuypers (Cologne, Germany). Prof. Merita Bardhoshi (Tirana, Albania) finished the first day of the congress with a comparison of the treatment of vascular lesions in the oral and maxillofacial area with a 980 nm diode laser and with a conventional method. Participants of LASER START UP had the opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of laser and its various applications. In his welcome speech on Friday afternoon, Dr Bach addressed laser from a scientific perspective and from the viewpoint of established dentists. The topics of the presentations that followed included physical fundamentals of laser, and its application in implantology, oral surgery and endodontics. Speakers included well-known experts Dr Joerg Meister (Bonn) and Prof. Herbert Deppe (Munich, Germany).

On both congress days, participants were able to visit the dental exhibition during the breaks to learn about the latest developments in laser dentistry. On Friday evening, the first congress day ended with a social gathering at the dental exhibition, where participants further discussed the topics of the day in a relaxed atmosphere.

_Selecting the correct laser

On Saturday, the congress participants were offered another interesting programme. Dr Ralf Borchers (Buende, Germany) started the second day off with a lecture on clinical experiences with perio green (elexxion). Afterwards, Dr Gottfried Gisler (Maennedorf, Switzerland) spoke about the use of laser in clinical emergency cases. He was followed by Prof. Gerd Volland (Heilsbronn, Germany), Giannis Papadimitriou (Duesseldorf), Dr Simona Baur (Zirndorf, Germany), Dr Carsten Philipp (Berlin) and Dr Michael Bauer (Kiel, Germany). In a workshop by Drs Detlef Klotz (Duisburg, Germany) and Peter Esser (Simmerath, Germany), the participants were advised on the correct billing of laser treatments.

Billing and the profitability of laser treatment were topics at LASER START UP too and the focus of a presentation by Dr Kuypers. The second day of the event also dealt with laser types and wavelengths, and selecting the correct laser in a panel discussion under the guidance of Dr Bach and Prof. Frentzen. In practical workshops led by Dr Moghtader, Dr Kresimir Simunovic (Zurich, Switzerland) and Prof. Volland, participants had the opportunity to learn about the practical application of laser systems offered by different companies.

Finally, participants of the DGL meeting and LASER START UP were brought together for a joint programme on Saturday afternoon, which included a lecture and panel discussion. The lecture covered laser as an interdisciplinary interface in dentistry from the perspective of a practice owner and was complemented by a panel discussion, which prompted lively professional exchange among the participants.

In 2015, the two events, which have been combined since 2009, will again take place jointly. On 27 and 28 November, the 24th Annual Congress of the DGL and LASER START UP 2015 will be held in Berlin._

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