Laser education at its best

AALZ Mastership courses in Greece

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Since 1991, when AALZ was originally founded, a vast number of dentists have been educated and certified as laser experts. It was in 2010 that a new branch of AALZ has opened its arms in Athens and Thessaloniki, providing courses in laser dentistry for Greek and foreign dentists.

Entering its 6th year of operation, AALZ Greece has already established its position as a leader in certified education for laser dentistry. A dozen of laser safety officer courses, many diode-orientated wavelength courses, four mastership/fellowship programmes and several one-day seminars with a variety of lectures have been offered and embraced by the Greek dental world.

Even in this difficult and challenging financial period, especially in Greece, but also in Europe, we are happy to say that this year's mastership/fellowship course 2015–2016 is a big success, reaching a number of 14 participants.

The course started on October 10 and 11, 2015, with Module I, covering the laser safety officer certification, the laser construction and handling part and the ILIAS system—introduction and understanding. Module I was repeated on January 23 and 24, 2016, since several more dentists have enrolled.

We had the honour and pleasure in both circumstances to host Mr Leon Vanweersch, who wel-

Fig. 1: Leisure times and Greek cuisine dinner.
Fig. 2: Prof. Norbert Gutknecht in action.
Fig. 3: The mastership/fellowship 2015–2016 group photo.
Fig. 4: Hands-on workshop with different wavelengths.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

comed the participants as the general manager of the programme and gave them an introductory speech in order to make them understand the history, qualities and advantages of AALZ's educational programmes before introducing Module I's lecturers for AALZ Greece, Dr Dimitris Strakas and Antonis Kallis. It was also the first time that Prof. Norbert Gutknecht, although not present for these modules, also welcomed the participants with a video conference call.

Coming to Module II on February 7 to 10, 2016, the group was happy and eager to listen and learn as much as possible on diode lasers in dentistry by Prof. Norbert Gutknecht himself, covering the whole spectrum of therapeutic indications. Long and interactive days always included both fun and work, which is by all means necessary in order to be more productive. Module II ended with a hands-on course, in which participants learned the handling of diode lasers and the methodology behind each specific treatment. Last but not least, we had the opportunity to demonstrate diode and Nd:YAG laser therapies on some patients in our clinic.

For the successful hands-on we have to thank the companies that supported this and provided us with their units, giving the participants the opportunity to work with the full spectrum of diode wavelengths and Nd:YAG (445 nm, 660 nm, 810 nm, 930 nm, 980 nm, 1,064 nm). In alphabetical order we would like to thank: Biolase, Fotona, Sirona and Zolar.

All our participants are already impatient with regard to Module III, which is scheduled for June 5 to 8, 2016, and Prof. Gutknecht's lectures on Erbium family lasers. This year's mastership course is scheduled to be completed in Aachen on September 29 and 30, 2016.

[Picture: ©Anastasios71]

AALZ Greece's courses are taking place in the renovated "Excelixi" Convention Center at "Domotel Kastri Contemporary Hotel" in the Kastri district, Athens. Our participants are catered throughout the days of the courses and we will have dinner nights with them and our AALZ stuff, enjoying the weather and the famous Greek cuisine. For more info on AALZ Greece's courses, visit www.aalz.gr or contact via email on aalzgreece@gmail.com_

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Kurz & bündig

Seit der Gründung des AALZ im Jahr 1991 hat eine große Anzahl von Zahnärzten die Ausbildung zum zertifizierten Laser-Experten durchlaufen. Weitere Standorte des AALZ wurden 2010 in Athen und Thessaloniki eröffnet und ermöglichen seitdem die Schulung griechischer Zahnärzte sowie Kollegen aus dem Ausland in der Laserzahnmedizin. In seinem sechsten Jahr hat sich das AALZ Griechenland mittlerweile als ein führender Anbieter für die Schulung von Laseranwendungen in der Zahnmedizin etabliert. Kurse zum Arbeitsschutz und Veranstaltungen mit Fokus auf Diodenlaser sowie vier Mastership-/Fellowship-Programme und verschiedene eintägige Seminare wurden von der griechischen Dentalwelt bisher sehr positiv angenommen. Selbst angesichts der aktuellen finanziellen Herausforderungen, die sich besonders für Griechenland in den letzten Jahren ergeben haben, hat sich auch in diesem Jahr die Mastership-/Fellowship-Kursreihe mit nunmehr 14 Teilnehmern als großer Erfolg erwiesen. Mit Eröffnungsreden von Herr Leon Vanweersch im Januar und einer Videokonferenz mit Prof. Norbert Gutknecht im Februar sowie einer gelungenen Mischung aus interaktiven, praxisnahen Veranstaltungen und einem ansprechenden Freizeitangebot ist die Kursreihe gut ins neue Jahr gestartet. Modul III wird sich im Juni 2016 unter der Leitung von Prof. Gutknecht auf Erbiumlaser konzentrieren. Die finale Veranstaltung der Reihe ist dann für den 29. und 30. September in Aachen geplant.