

Start of the new **Master of Science** course “Lasers in Dentistry”

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Already the eleventh master course “Lasers in Dentistry” started on 14 September 2009 in Aachen, Germany. This postgraduate Master of Science programme has been offered since 2004 at the RWTH Aachen University.

The Rector of RWTH Aachen University, Prof. Dr. Schmachtenberg, welcomed the 16 curious dentists who will get a taste of student's life again. He introduced the University of Excellence where they will study extra-occupational for the next two years.

The participants come from Germany, the European countries, Turkey, Iran and Iraq but also from Hong Kong and Canada. Some of them have already been working for decades as successful dentists in their countries. They have come to Aachen because they are persuaded that laser dentistry is the future in dental medicine. After the official enrolment at the RWTH Aachen University the students got to know their new study place by a bus tour. Already in the afternoon, the serious students life started with the first lecture.

All important theories and application options pertaining to laser use in dentistry are taught. Participants obtain sound theoretical knowledge in lectures and seminars led by renowned, competent and experi-

enced international scientists and practitioners. Skill training sessions, exercises, practical applications, live operations and workshops with intensive assistance from scientific associates with doctorates guide participants towards using lasers successfully and professionally in their own surgeries. During the ten modules, students remain in steady contact with the RWTH Aachen Uni-

versity and the lecturers between attendance days via the e-learning system. This kind of segmentation allows established dentists to remain active in their surgeries while getting their Master degree.

During the last five years more than 100 dentists could take their Master of Science degrees.

In addition to these documents awarded by the RWTH Aachen the graduates receive the degree “European Masters Degree for Oral Laser Applications” (EMDOLA) of the European ERASMUS Program for Postgraduate Studies.

Dr. Peter Fahlstedt, MSc, graduate from 2008, reports: “I will start the first Institute for Laser-supported Dentistry in the Nordic Countries with the aim to offer the highest achievable level of education in this field to dentists in Sweden and other neighbour countries. This is only possible with the extraordinary support and professionalism.” The conclusion from Dr. Dimitris Strakas, MSc, who started his studies in 2004: “The quality of the program and its elaborate structure will certainly give you the boost that you need while using and successfully treating with lasers. I am grateful for all the things I gained and for the security I feel having a great team of colleagues beside me, as we all walk with confident steps towards the new era of dentistry.”

The Master course “Lasers in Dentistry” is the first accredited dentistry laser Master program in Germany and indeed the world, recognized in the EU and all countries of the Washington Accord (USA and Anglo-American nations) and of the Bologna Reform as an internationally valid academic degree.

The master programme is taught in German and English in Aachen. The next course starts on 8 September 2010. The programme is also offered in Dubai (United Arab Emirates, next start in November 2009).

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