"Shedding Light on Dentistry 2009" Congress in Brazil

author__Marcia Marques, Brazil



_The 1st Meeting of the South America Division (SAD) of the World Federation for Lasers in Dentistry (WFLD) was held jointly with the 5th Congress of the Brazilian Society for Lasers in Dentistry (ABLO). The „Shedding Light on Dentistry 2009" Congress occurred in São Paulo, Brazil, from October 22–24, 2009. The meeting was supported by Brazilian governmental research foundations, such as FAPESP, CNPq and CAPES; and two exhibitors (MMO and Oral-B).

The congress has succeeded to bring together leading clinicians and researchers in laser in dentistry from six countries for exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge to promote excellence in patient care by advancing lasers and other related technologies. Thirteen keynote speakers presented the use of lasers in different fields of dentistry. More than 200 academics and clinicians attended the congress. There were 79 papers presented on scientific research and clinical techniques in laser dentistry (Fig. 1).

In the opening ceremony the meeting was officially opened by the president of ABLO, Professor Abílio Moura-Netto, followed by the Organizing Chairman, Professor Walter Niccoli, the President of the Scientific Committee, Professor Denise Zezell, the President of the WFLD-SAD, Professor Carlos de Paula Eduardo, and finally by Professor Gutknecht, the President of the WFLD. Professors Eduardo and Gutknecht expressed their satisfaction for the Congress organization, wished success for the event and most of all talked about the importance of the dissemination of the lasers in Dentistry accomplishments not only in congresses but also in scientific publications. They have emphasized that we are living a new era in the lasers applications especially in the health field. Moreover, professor Gutknecht congratulated the Brazilian researchers for the huge amount and quality of the scientific publications in international journals. Since the opening ceremony these professors enforced the importance in participating in the Dubai 2010 WFLD Congress (Fig. 2).

The honor invited speaker, Professor Norbert Gutknecht, kindly came from Germany, even in the middle of a very busy period, for participating in the meeting. He granted us with an opening lecture pre-



Fig. 1



Fig. 2


Fig. 3

senting his results on „A new approach to laser assisted bleaching". His bright presentation was followed by a series of oral and poster presentations. In the beginning of the afternoon, Professor Rafael Gutierrez, from Argentina, presented a lecture on „Surgical indications for laser use in lesions caused by HPV". Professor Martha Simões Ribeiro, from the Nuclear Energy Research Institute (IPEN-Brazil), spoke about „Strategies to optimize photodynamic antimicrobial therapy". Both presentations were very appreciated by all participants, who demonstrated depth interest on these discussed issues. In fact, throughout the meeting several studies were presented focusing in the PDT applications in dentistry and oral medicine.

The first day of the meeting was closed with two more important lectures given by the Professor Aldo Brugnera, the General Secretary of the WFLD and Vice-President of the WFLD-SAD, who talked about „Clinical use of photography in oral cavity". Finally, Professor Vanderlei Bagnato, from the Physics Institute of the University of São Paulo (IFSC-USP—Brazil) showed impressive results of „Photodynamic therapy in the treatment of oral cavity". This important researcher and professor has shown not only clinical cases, but also the development of new equipments for application in oral health.

In between the scientific presentations the coffee breaks were periods of joy, when the participants could get together for eating delicious treats and commenting the new knowledge presented in the meeting.

Additionally, there was time to announce the „LASER-International magazine of the laser dentistry". The new journal was received with enthusiasm by many participants who expressed interest in buying Journal subscriptions (Figs. 3–4).

The second day of the meeting started with the lecture of other honor invited speaker, the Director of „Hadassa" Dental College of Hebrew University in Israel, Professor Adam Stabholz. He presented the „New side-firing fiber effects in endodontics" developed by him with collaborators, showing the interesting effects of this fiber along with EDTA for cleaning the root canal walls. His interesting presentation was followed by two other lectures. First of all the one in „The use of Er:YAG, CO_2 and Diode lasers in treatment of head and neck cancer patients" presented by Professor Moti Sela, also from the Hadassa University, who showed his experience in treating oncologic patients with lasers, especially in the last 15 years. Then, Professor Antonio Pinheiro, other Brazil Representative in the WFLD presented the experience of his research group on „Laser surgery on the dental practice".

The afternoon started with a new welcome from Professor Carlos de Paula Eduardo, the President of the South America Division of the WFLD and Chairman of the Special Laboratory of Lasers in Dentistry (LELO) of the School of Dentistry of the University of São Paulo (USP). Based on his vast experience of more than 18 years militating in the field of lasers in dentistry, not only as clinician, but also as a hard work researcher, presented the lecture „New technologies—Laser in contemporary clinical dentistry". In this special occasion he invited everybody to get together in Dubai for having the opportunity to learn from important researchers from all over the world. Professor Eduardo devoted himself to the event not only following all the presentations, but also by giving support and attention to all participants and those who also worked hard for the success of the Congress.

Professor Eduardo presentation was followed for two more lectures, as follows: „Evidences of the effects of CO_2 laser in caries prevention" by Professor Marinês Nobre from the University of Campinas, Brazil; and „Optical coherence tomography in dentsitry" by Professor Anderson Gomes from the Department of Physics of the Federal University of Pernambuco, in a northeast state of Brazil.

Before the coffee break there were six oral presentations and then, the last two lectures were presented. Firstly, Professor Valdir Golveia from the São Paulo State University, Brazil, spoke about „Comparative study of PDT on periodontal treatment in different systemic alterations". Then, the closing lecture was given by Professor Gerdal Sousa, from the Periodontics Department of Federal University of Minas Gerais , Brazil, on „From photobiomodulation to photodynamic therapy: Clinical applications in dentistry". This leading researcher presented with enthusiasm a compilation of his group positive findings on the use of PDT in Periodontics.



Fig. 4

Seventy participants attended the six sections of „Lunch and Learning" where the invited speakers along with a section coordinator have discussed in a welcoming environment important issues of the use of lasers in different dentistry fields as: „Lasers in Periodontics" given by Professor Gutknecht and coordinated by Dr Iliria Feist; „Lasers in Endodontics" by Professor Adam Stahboltz and Dr. Sheila Gouw-Soares; „Lasers for treating oncologic patients" by Dr Fernanda de Paula Eduardo and Professor Márcia Marques, with the collaboration of Professor Moti Sela, „Laser for treating mouth diseases" by Dr Luciane Azevedo and Dr. Vivian Galleta; „Photo dynamic therapy (PDT)" by Dr. Aguinaldo Garcia and Professor Alyne Simões and last but not least „Treatment of dentine hypersensivity with low and high power lasers" given by Dr. Thereza Christinna Ladalardo and Professor Ana Cecília Aranha. All participants were pleased with the results of such opportunity of exchange experiences with knowledgeable clinicians and researchers of different Dentistry fields.

There were 35 oral presentations of studies developed mostly in several states of Brazil. The study „Comparison between laser therapy and non-surgical therapy for periodontitis in diabetic animal", presented by Professor Letícia Theodoro received the oral presentation first award. This professor showed a state-of-art study evidencing the improvement in periodontal healing when conventional periodontal treatment was associated to laser phototherapy.

Simultaneously with the coffee breaks there were four sections of poster presentations. Forty-four posters were presented and the graduate student from the Restorative Dentistry Program of the School of Dentistry of USP was awarded with the first prize. The student presented her master thesis „Er:YAG and Er,Cr:YSGG lasers irradiation on dentin" relating the dentin ultrastructure to the quality of dentin bond strength to composite resin.

The Congress dinner was very well participated and everyone felt very much at home. In fact, the overall feeling of participants was festive; everyone was satisfied with the presentations and also for the opportunity to meet friends and colleagues in a friendly atmosphere. This dinner was also celebrated ten years of the Professional Master of Laser in Dentistry. This post graduation program, offered by IPEN and FOUSP, has already formed more than one hundred dentists in the past 10 years. The students were very pleased by the reunion, excited about the new products presented at the conference and in particular for meeting personally with renowned researches of the laser dentistry field, as Professor Gutknecht, Adam Stahboltz, among others.

The congress certainly exceeded the expectation of all organizers and participants. Professor Denise Zezell, the President of „Shedding Light on Dentistry 2009" Congress Scientific Committee and her students have worked hardly for getting grants from research foundations to support all meeting activities. Everybody congratulated her for the successful meeting.

The staff of the „Special laboratory for Lasers in Dentistry (LELO)"of the school of dentistry –USP, coordinated by Professor Carlos de Paula Eduardo was in charge of the secretary work. The professors Ana Cecilia Aranha and Patricia de Freitas chaired a very organized and dedicated team (listed below) in order to have everything ready for the meeting before and during the event. Dr. Zilson Magalhães, from the company DiFatto, had an important contribution for the meeting success, being in charge of the contacts with oral care companies and their financial support for the Congress. Thank to them all activities occurred softly throughout the two-day congress.

In the closing ceremony, Professor Gutknecht (President of the WFLD) and honor speaker along with Professor Carlos de Paula Eduardo (President of the WFLD-SAD) announced the top six poster and oral presentations. The presenters were awarded with a certificate of achievement. Then, Professor Gutknecht expressed his gratitude in participating in the meeting. He again highlighted the importance of Brazil in the Scientific Scenario of Lasers in Dentistry with the large amount and quality of the publications in indexed journals. Moreover, he was very happy with the friendly atmosphere that was hallmark of the meeting. This friendship prevailed amongst participants of the teams of Laser in dentistry researchers of South America. Then, Professor Eduardo closed the meeting with the invitation to the 2010 Dubai WFLD meeting followed by a long section of photos and hugs of all participants.

The main goals of the first Meeting of the WFLD-SAD were fully achieved. The Congress was very successful in disseminating new knowledge in the field of lasers in dentistry, but mostly offered support to meet Dubai. The executive committee of WFLD-SAD chaired by Professor Carlos Eduardo de Paula made disseminating this important scientific event. Certainly, the 2010 Dubai WFLD meeting can count on the South America Division with a significant representation in Dubai._