Laser Down Under

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Fig. 1_Presenting the poster to Dr David Cox, President of the AALD.
Fig. 2_At the gala, sitting from the right: Prof Laurence Walsh, Dr Graeme Milicich, Dr Andrew Brostek.
Fig. 3_All participants of the pre conference laser certification course received a certificate from the School of Dentistry of the Queensland University after passing the test.

_The inaugural conference of the Australian Association for Laser Dentistry took place on the 24th to 26th of July 2009 near Brisbane at the Gold Coast. The AALD has been formed to provide an education platform and a forum for laser users in general to meet, discuss and provide direction to regulators and professional associations regarding laser use, tapping into the wealth of knowledge the members have already at their disposal. The AALD in its short life has successfully lobbied the ADAQ, the Dental Board of Queensland, and Radiation Health Queensland to bring about a change in the Radiation Safety Act to allow hygienists and therapists to use class four lasers for procedures limited to the scope of their training under the direction of a dentist. With the moves to national registration from 1 July 2010, this could provide a template which can be adopted at the national level.



Fig. 1


Fig. 2

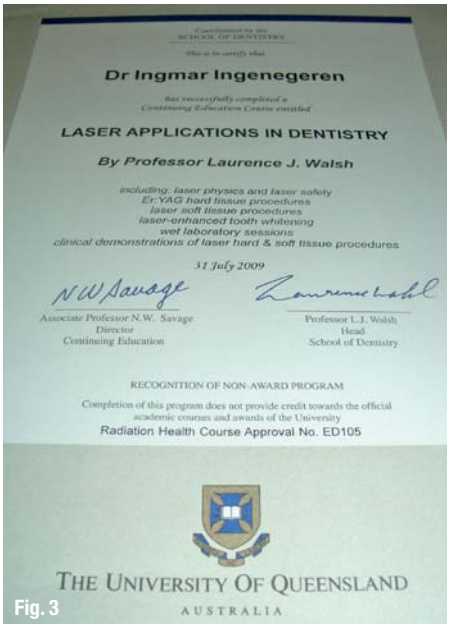


Fig. 3

Among the invited speakers were Prof. Laurence Walsh, Professor of Dental Science and Head of the University of Queensland School of Dentistry since 2004. He leads an energetic research group working in advanced technologies, and he has been research program leader in laser applications in health sciences for the UQ Centre for Biophotonics and Laser Science since 1998. He is a registered dental specialist in special needs dentistry, and has been treating patients in clinical practice using laser technology since 1991. He wrote numerous articles and answers any question from any direction in Laser Dentistry. As a main speaker, he explained in multiple lectures, the state of the art of Laser in Dentistry including low level laser therapy.

Dr David Cox is the Founding President of the Australian Society for Laser Dentistry and holds clinical academic titles at both the University of Sydney and at the University of Queensland. He runs a large dental practice in Brisbane, where he has been treating patients with lasers since 1999. He has been at the forefront of laser dentistry ed-



ucation in Australia, having served as a clinical preceptor for many general practitioners during their introduction to lasers, both in Australia and overseas.

Dr Andrew Brostek has a private dental practice in Perth, Western Australia and is Clinical Senior Lecturer in Operative Dentistry at the University of Western Australia Dental School. He has given many national and international presentations concerning Minimal Invasive Dentistry and in the uses of Er:YAG dental lasers. On these topics, he has published in various dental journals and he has ongoing interest in further diagnostic uses of laser fluorescence.

Dr Graeme Milicich graduated from Otago in 1976 and has since been in private group practice. His fields of interest include cosmetic dentistry, occlusal rehabilitation, implant prosthetics, minimal intervention and lasers. He is a Fellow, Diplomate and founding board member of the World Congress of Minimally Invasive Dentistry. He is also a founding board member of the NZ Institute of Minimal Intervention Dentistry. He is currently conducting research on minimal intervention restorative techniques, laser ablation physics and clinical applications of the Er,Cr:YSGG laser. He showed how he determinded the optimal angle for most effective hard tissue ablation.

Dr Hisham Abdalla is the first multiple laser dentist and instructor in New Zealand. He is an international speaker, author and educator in the fields of Laser dentistry, Minimally Invasive, high-tech and CEREC CAD/CAM dentistry. He is an invited Associate Professor at the University of Cagliari in Italy. He is the NZ course provider and examiner for The Queensland University Laser Certification program, by Professor L. Walsh. He is a Fellow & Diplomate of the World Congress of Minimally Invasive Dentistry and had served as a directors board member of the organization in the USA. He is a Founding member of the NZ Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, Founding member & VP of the NZ Institute of Minimal Intervention Dentistry & Fellow of the World Clinical Laser Institute. He practices dentistry and runs live courses for dental professionals from all over the world, at his Professional Development Centre at the Laser LifeCare Institute in Auckland. He graduated with honors from Charles University in Prague in 1998 as a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Dr Peter Verheyen is a founding member and secretary of the European Laser users and Research Association and a founding member and treasurer of the European Society for Oral Laser Applications. He was also an Organisation Representative of the International Society for Lasers in Dentistry. He has had numerous articles published in dental journals and magazines. He also lectures on laser applications in dentistry and conducts workshops and training for practitioners. He and his son Jeroen presented the newest developments in laser assisted bleaching.

Dr Ingmar Ingenegeren is laser user since 1995 and a pioneer of implicating laser in implant surgery using more than 10 different wavelengths. He has a Master in Implantology (Danube University of Krems, Austria) and a Master in Laser Dentistry (University of Aachen, Germany), is a member of multiple international laser and implant societies and codirector of the laser module program of the Indian Academy for Laser Dentistry. In 2007 he became scientific co worker of the Dental Laser Department of the Aachen University (Germany) and has performed more than 25 laser workshops and more than 45 presentations at international congresses in the last four years. He was the only one to present a poster at this inaugural conference.

"The quality of speakers assembled at the AALD meeting is a testament to their belief in the establishment of this society. All speakers generously donated their time and efforts with minimal or no assistance, and I am sure you would agree their contributions made the meeting an enormous success", thus Dr David Cox. He also thanked the companies who supported the meeting. There were several booths with more than a handful of laser brands. All attendees of this inaugural conference automatically received a one years membership to the AALD. Prof. Laurence Walsh announced at the end of the meeting, that there are plans for 2010 to cooperate with the WFLD._

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