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From Maiman's 1st laser to the Laser World Congress 2018

Dear colleagues and friends,

One hundred years ago Albert Einstein envisioned that under the right conditions a special kind of light could be created—a light that nobody has ever seen before. It would be a single colour, it would not scatter and it would be intense.

Almost sixty years ago, in 1960, Theodore Maiman presented the first laser device on earth. Maiman identified five potential uses for the laser, among them concentrating light for industry, chemistry and medicine. The search for new devices and technologies for dental procedures has always been challenging and in the last four decades much experience and knowledge have been gained. Pioneering research in the mid-sixties paved the way for the use of lasers in dental medicine and the development of pulsed technology with CO₂ wavelengths in the eighties made lasers popular in this medical area. In 1990, the first laser designed specifically for general dentistry, the dLase 300 Nd:YAG, was introduced and in 1997, following the FDA approval of the Er:YAG laser for caries removal, cavity preparations and modification of dentine and enamel, a new era in laser dentistry began.

With the rapid development of laser technology, new lasers with a wide range of characteristics are now available and are being used for soft-tissue procedures, caries diagnosis and removal, curing composites, tooth bleaching, paediatric dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, preventive and implant dentistry, control of bleeding in vascular lesions and Low Level Laser Therapy.

The WFLD congress in Aachen from 1 to 3 October 2018 will mark the 30th anniversary of the WFLD/

ISLD and will provide a perfect stage for friends and colleagues to get together, to exchange knowledge based on latest research, to learn about the newest developments in laser dentistry and how to implement this knowledge in the various disciplines mentioned above. It will be a perfect time as well for building new friendships and planning new collaborations for the future. Do not miss this unique opportunity to be part of the largest scientific laser in dentistry meeting ever—organised in the beautiful city of Aachen, Germany, known as the cathedral city of Europe. It is located on the border to Belgium and the Netherlands and is a city that lives and breathes Europe. When not attending one of the lecture halls, where the world's most renowned speakers will be presenting, or participating at one of the workshops or learning at the posters session, a visit to the Aachen Cathedral is a must. It is certainly both a local landmark and a monument of Europe's illustrious past.

The preparations for the world congress are in full swing and a tremendous effort is made to ensure its success. Our thanks and our deepest appreciation go to the wonderful team headed by Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht, Prof. Dr Lynn Powell, Leon Vanweersch, Dr Dimitris Strakas, Dr Stefan Grümer, the DGL local organising team and to all members on the international organising committees.

I look forward to meeting you all in Aachen at this outstanding high-level international scientific event jointly organised by WFLD, DGL and WALED. On 1 October 2018 all roads will lead to Aachen.

All the best and see you soon in Aachen,
Prof. Adam Stabholz