

WFLD's Pearl Anniversary World Congress 2018

Dr Dimitris Strakas, Greece & Leon Vanweersch, Germany



Fig. 1

Our laser scientific world will once more be uniting for the most well-known event of its kind—the 16th dental laser congress of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry. WFLD, formerly known as International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD), was established back in 1988. The scope was always the same: to serve as a non-profit medium for the exchange, advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge on the use of lasers for treatment and research in the oral and dental environment.

Starting with the first world congress that was held in Tokyo, Japan, it became evident that this society would have a bright future. These highly scientific events have been recurring every two years since and have become the meeting point for the global laser family. The cities Tokyo (Japan, 1988), Paris (France, 1990), Salt Lake City (USA, 1992), Singapore (1994), Jerusalem (Israel, 1996), Hawaii (USA, 1998), Brussels (Belgium, 2000), Yokohama (Japan, 2002), São Paulo (Brazil, 2004), Berlin (Germany, 2006), Hong Kong (China, 2008), Dubai (UAE, 2010), Barcelona (Spain, 2012), Paris (France, 2014) and Nagoya (Japan, 2016) have been the 15 stops that this federation has offered to the world of laser science so far.

But this year—2018—the venue is of even greater value for two reasons. Firstly, the 16th World Congress will be celebrated as the WFLD's pearl anniversary as we will be completing 30 years since its foundation in 1988. Moreover, the event will be held in the city of Aachen, Germany, which is not only at the heart of Europe, but its university, RWTH Aachen University, is also considered to be one of the most respected and prominent academic names in laser science.

From 1 to 3 October 2018, the 30th anniversary of WFLD will be held at the RWTH Aachen University Hospital, under the wings of WFLD, DGL and WALED. It is our goal to achieve the highest attendance of all times for this milestone event—also gaining confidence and momentum from last year's very successful WFLD European Congress in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The organising chairman, Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht, stated: "It is my intention to make this congress a turning point in the set-up and structure of executing such congresses. This congress will integrate science and practical experience on different levels through presentations and demonstrations like high-ranked international keynote speakers, on stage live patient demonstrations, interactive digital poster presentations, oral presentations combined with clinically relevant skill training, short presentations of latest research findings, outstanding clinical case presentations, rotating company-supported workshops, and last but not least the option of gaining continuous education certificates. I also cordially invite all dental laser companies to seize this opportunity to present and demonstrate their products during this special anniversary world congress!"

The programme set-up and the evaluation of a large number (over 200 so far) of abstract submissions is a huge task for the scientific committee. The whole procedure is led by the scientific committee chairman Prof. Dr Lynn Powell, who stated: "Thank you all for the so far great number of submissions. We have extended the deadline to 14 May 2018. You can still submit an abstract for presentation to share your research results, clinical experience, new techniques and your knowledge with



Preliminary Programme



16TH WORLD CONGRESS
WFLD 2018
AACHEN
THREE DECADES
OF LASER INNOVATION
1-3 OCTOBER



16th World Congress WFLD 2018

Check out the detailed Preliminary Congress Programme by scanning the QR above.

Fig. 1: Venue of the 16th WFLD congress: the RWTH Aachen University Hospital. **Fig. 2:** Evaluation of abstract submissions by Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht, Prof. Dr Lynn Powell and Dr Dimitris Strakas (from left).

others. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate no matter what organisation you belong to, or whether a laser user or not. I look forward to greeting you in a warm, friendly, sharing environment in Aachen, Germany, this October.”

Visit our official website www.wfld-aachen2018.com for online abstract submissions, secure online registrations via credit card or bank transfer, scientific and social programme details, hotel accommodation options and all related information about the beautiful city of Aachen. Last but not least we would like to thank all our current sponsors for supporting this event. We are proud of having the leaders of the laser device market on our side.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in Aachen, Germany, this October and welcome you to be part of this epic scientific event.

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