

**Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht**

ISLD President



## 30 years of ISLD—an anniversary, a milestone and a new beginning

Dear friends of laser dentistry,

Back in 1988, laser pioneers from different countries met in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss the application of laser technologies in dentistry. Since there were already scientific associations for general medicine at that point, the idea was formed to found one for dentistry as well. As a result, the International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD) was born. This year, the ISLD celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday with the 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Laser Dentistry, which was held at the RWTH Aachen University in Germany. The event lasting multiple days was hosted by three associations: The DGL, the WFLD (in 2006, the ISLD changed its name to WFLD) and the WALED, an alumni organisation of the RWTH Aachen University.

The congress welcomed over 540 participants from 49 countries, 38 speakers and virtually all major laser manufacturers. Over the course of three days, 125 short lectures and 89 digital poster presentations were given. Looking back, it is not without a certain pride that we can say that the event was the largest and most successful congress in laser dentistry of the last thirty years. At the closing ceremony and the membership meeting, it was proposed to bring the name ISLD and the association's original organisational structure back to life, thus embracing its former academic dignity and scientific objective. By an overwhelming majority, the proposal was accepted and put into practice. The vast amount of incoming membership applications from entire national laser societies, private laser practitioners, as well as scientists from all over the world has exceeded everyone's expectations.

At last, the ISLD is the ISLD again. The society will continue to focus on scientific, academic and clinical issues regarding laser dentistry on a global scale—in medical, dental and social professional associations.

At this point, I would like to take the opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all visitors, speakers, exhibitors and my entire organisational team, who have contributed to making the World Congress in Aachen such a great success.

I wish all our readers and our colleagues, who were not able to attend the anniversary celebrations, all the very best for the coming year 2019 and much success in the laser assisted treatment of patients and in conducting scientific research at universities. In addition, I wish all laser manufacturers, and our exhibitors in particular, a successful business year 2019.

On behalf of the ISLD Executive Board, I am sending you my warmest greetings and I am looking forward to welcoming you at the ISLD International European Congress in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, next June.

Yours

Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht