

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Fig. 1: Congress participants enjoyed numerous presentations on cutting edge topics. **Fig. 2:** The organising team succeeded in putting together three highly scientific congress days.

A look back at the 17th International Congress of ISLD in Plovdiv

Dr Dimitris Strakas, Greece & Dr Georgi T. Tomov, Bulgaria

The annual congresses of the International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD), which was formed 31 years ago, have always been considered important scientific gatherings for dental laser enthusiasts from all around the globe. Following the successful congresses in Thessaloniki in 2017 and Aachen in 2018, which brought about a new congress era, the historic and beautiful Bulgarian city of Plovdiv was chosen as this year's venue for the 17th International Congress of ISLD, held from 6 to 8 June 2019. Set in the Medical University of the city, which also has been designated the 2019 European capital of Culture, the three-day congress was supported by the Bulgarian Dental Laser Society, the Bulgarian Association of Oral Medicine, the German association for laser dentistry (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Laserzahnheilkunde–DGL) and the World Academy for Laser Education and Research in Dentistry (WALED).

On 6 June, the congress opened with the 7th Annual Meeting of the World Academy for Laser Dentistry, which is the alumni society of the M.Sc. and Master's graduates of the Aachen Dental Laser Center (AALZ) at the RWTH Aachen University Campus. In addition, numerous workshops and clinical courses were held on the first congress day, which ended with the already famous WALED get-together party. On the following day, 7 June, the ISLD

ISLD International Society for Laser Dentistry

Congress was officially opened by Congress Chairman Dr Georgi Tomov and Scientific Chairman Prof. Norbert Gutknecht. The opening ceremony included a fantastic laser show and a heart-warming local music experience. The overriding theme of the congress "Laser Technologies and Translation to Clinical Practice" was chosen







Fig. 3: Prof. Norbert Gutknecht (left) and Dr Georgi Tomov (right) welcomed participants to the congress. **Fig. 4:** More than 250 laser enthusiasts from around the globe gathered for the event in Plovdiv.

to reflect two major challenges in the field of laser dentistry: rapidly evolving new technologies and both the possibilities and the limitations of applying these technological advancements in the daily clinical practice in an evidence-based fashion. The congress programme comprised round table debates, numerous workshops and short oral presentations addressing cutting edge topics.

Several promising new technologies are on the horizon in laser dentistry and this congress served as an ideal forum for exchanging professional knowledge in order to advance and elevate the medical field. Educational sessions and practical courses were offered on topics with a strong emphasis on research and clinical application, making them of immediate relevance for clinicians. More than 250 participants enjoyed not only the scientific programme, but also the exquisite social events including the welcome cocktail party and the gala dinner party.

The ISLD is the leading society worldwide for laser dentistry. You can become a member of the now 31-year-old expert society online on www.isldlaser.com. Members enjoy numerous privileges including the unique Laser Dentistry World Academic Map, where you can pin yourself and interact with your colleagues and fellow researchers on dental laser technologies on a global scale. The next congress of the International Society for Laser Dentistry will be held in Cairo in Egypt from 1 to 3 October 2020. Further information on this magnificent upcoming event will be published soon.



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