

The West-East MIS Conference, held on 20 and 21 June 2019 in Tel Aviv-Jaffa in Israel, was a middle ground for the distinguished lecturers from Europe and Japan for meeting on the same stage at the Hilton Hotel, situated on the gorgeous Mediterranean shoreline. Inspired by his many visits to Japan throughout his career as a periodontist. Dr Bernard Dahan was one of the kev initiators of the conference. His opening statement was followed by a musical stage performance of a drum quartet, dressed in traditional Japanese clothing, playing beautiful Japanese taiko drums. The powerful music held the audience spellbound and reflected the overarching theme of the event, namely, finding harmony in the different aesthetic ideals and techniques of another culture. Elad Ginat, Vice President of Marketing and Products at MIS, welcomed the more than 500 participants and shared some personal stories regarding the close relationship they maintain with their numerous global partners. Dr Dahan then opened the morning lectures by introducing the line-up (Fig. 1). Afterwards, Dr Iñaki Gamborena from Spain lectured on immediate placement procedures and the importance of pre-planning. He made a bold opening statement, saying "The more I know about dental implants, the more I want to keep the natural tooth". He spoke about tooth extraction and implant stability, which he described as "the two great miracles". Dr Masana Suzuki from Tokyo then discussed microscopic approaches in his lecture titled "Tissue management around implants as a must".

During the coffee-breaks, we spoke to some of the guests, including Dr Bajram Selimaj from Kosovo, who has been using MIS products for five years. He had previously been on a holiday trip to Tel Aviv-Jaffa and now returned for the conference to meet colleagues who are also using MIS products. We were also able to chat with

Drs Mahfuz Akher and Marcus Kallstrom, two dentists from Sweden, who had travelled to Tel Aviv-Jaffa together with their mentor to learn more about guided implantology. After the break, Dr Eric Van Dooren, co-creator of the MIS V3 implant system, spoke about the importance of digital pre-planning techniques. In the last lecture of the morning, Tokyo-based Dr Masayuki Okawa spoke about minimally invasive surgery. He believes that adopting a microscopic workflow in combination with both a digital and traditional approach will ultimately lead to better results. After the lunch and another great performance by the Japanese drum group, the afternoon session commenced with lectures from Drs Gamborena, Suzuki and Okawa. In the last lecture of the day Dr Mirela Feraru spoke about achieving long-term stability and controlling the different stages of the workflow, with a view to the new MIS CONNECT. A full panel discussion, moderated by Prof. Nitzan Bichacho, rounded off the first conference day. Afterwards, it was time to wind down on the beautiful terrace with its sea view, have a cocktail or two and dance to the sounds of a great live band. A full house of participants showed up the next morning for the joint lecture by Drs Florin Cofar and Van Dooren, and the presentations by Drs Gamborena and Suzuki that followed. In summary, it was a hugely successful conference, which set the bar high for future events in the region.

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