

Dr Youssef SedkyOrganising Chairman of the 18th ISLD World Congress

History carved with laser

Dear friends and colleagues,

The applications of laser therapy in dentistry have added great value for our treatment modalities and results. Through the use of this state-of-the-art technology in our daily practice, we are among the few with access to this niche specialty. Looking back in history, it is evident that the benefits of light therapy had already been understood and applied thousands of years ago, by the Chinese, Greek and ancient Egyptian civilisations. The last did not only worship the sun, but they also understood the medical benefits of light therapy. The Ebers Papyrus (1550 bc), among the oldest medical papyri of ancient Egypt, shows how light therapy with sun rays can be applied for the treatment of skin lesions.

Modern science, technology and research have allowed us to expand the use of phototherapy through different modified-light sources, enabling dental practitioners to capitalise on the benefits of photo-biomodulation as a result. Photo-biomodulation as an adjunctive therapy has been thoroughly examined through research and

proved to be of great value in orthodontics. Its effects include pain relief during orthodontic force application, acceleration of the rate of orthodontic tooth movement and an increase in the stabilisation of temporary anchorage devices.

From where we are today, we can look back on a great evolution of laser applications in dentistry. It is of utmost importance for us to keep ourselves continuously up to date on the latest research and the ongoing technological advancements made in laser dentistry. The board of the International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD) has also taken on this responsibility: after the great success of the congresses in Thessaloniki in 2017, in Aachen in 2018 and in Plovdiv in 2019, the board members and the general assembly have decided to take us on a journey to Egypt, a place of foundational knowledge and wisdom, by making Cairo the destination for the 18th ISLD World Congress, to be held from 1 to 3 October 2020.

Yours,
Dr Youssef Sedky