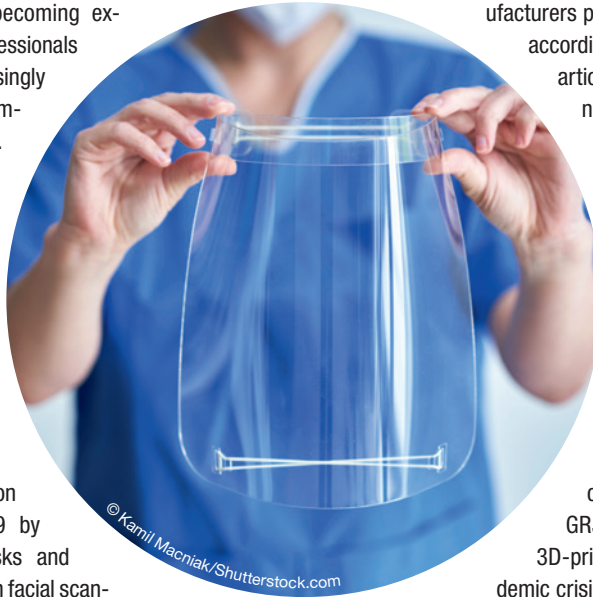


## Protection from COVID-19 with 3D-printed masks and face shields

Owing to mask supplies fast becoming exhausted, many healthcare professionals around the world are increasingly unable to comply with the recommended infection control practices. The shortage has prompted extended use and reuse of face masks in healthcare settings, thus increasing the professionals' risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2. To help ease the depleted supplies, many federal agencies have relaxed regulations on mask use and some institutions have taken the initiative to help those fighting on the front line against COVID-19 by producing 3D-printed face masks and shields. These masks are based on facial scanning, 3D imaging and 3D printing and consist of two 3D-printed reusable polyamide composite components, a face mask and a filter membrane support produced with the help of CAD. Additionally, the masks employ a disposable head fixation band and a filter membrane, both available from industrial man-



ufacturers producing FFP2/3 protective masks, according to a recently published research article. In this article, the researchers note that clinical testing, including dermatological considerations, leakage and virological testing of the reusable components of the masks, has not been performed yet. This, according to them, is crucial before use, as are proper cleaning and disinfection control. The article was first published on 30 March 2020 in the *International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery* and can be accessed online (Swennen GRJ, Pottel L, Haers PE. Custom-made 3D-printed facemasks in case of pandemic crisis situations with a lack of commercially available FFP2/3 masks, *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*(2020),doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijom.2020.03.015>).

**Source: Dental Tribune International**

## 18<sup>th</sup> ISLD World Congress

### Postponed to 2021

The International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD) initially planned to hold its 18<sup>th</sup> annual congress in early October of 2020 in Cairo in Egypt. Owing to the travel and other restrictions that have arisen from the current COVID-19 pandemic, however, the decision was made to postpone the event to 2021. Hosted in collaboration with Misr International University, the event is now set to take place from 20 to 22 May 2021 at the Cairo Marriott Hotel in Zamalek, an intricate historic palace that dates back to the Egyptian royal era. The three-day congress will feature numerous scientific lectures from internationally renowned speakers, who will cover the latest in laser dentistry, hands-on workshops and an industry exhibition by the world's leading dental laser manufacturing companies. The magnificent river Nile, not too far from the legendary Pyramids of Giza, will serve as the backdrop for this world-class dental event.

In addition, congress attendees will have plenty of opportunity to engage in enlightening conversations and professional exchange with colleagues from around the world. Further information on the 2021 event hosted by the leading expert society worldwide for laser dentistry can be found online at [www.isldcairo2020.com](http://www.isldcairo2020.com).

**Source: ISLD**



COVID-19: Study reports constant

## Fear and anxiety among dentists worldwide

COVID-19 has not only impeded access to healthcare, but also caused fear and anxiety among healthcare workers. After conducting a study to understand how dentists in different parts of the world are coping with the fear of acquiring the disease and what strategies and modifications dental practices are implementing in order to combat SARS-CoV-2, researchers have highlighted the devastating psychological effects that the disease has had on dental professionals. In the study, the researchers surveyed a total of 650 dentists from 30 countries using online questionnaires. Most dentists (76%) were working in a hospital setting, and of these, 74% were in private and 20% were in government institutions. The findings showed that more than two-thirds (78%) of general dental practitioners experienced anxiety and stress owing to concern about the adverse effects of COVID-19. The majority of the dentists (90%) were aware of the recent changes in treatment protocols, but only 61% said their practices have amended treatment protocols for infection control as a result of the pandemic.

When asked what measures could be taken to reduce the anxiety and stress associated with the disease, co-author Dr Muhammad Adeel Ahmed stated that the government and the respective health organisations should arrange mandatory continuing medical and/or dental education sessions and workshops for dentists, dental hygienists and other staff in order to help them understand the guidelines regarding the provision of dental care services during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The study, titled "Fear and practice modifications among dentists to combat novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak", was published online on 19 April 2020 in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.


**Source: Dental Tribune International**

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Dr Xavier Struillou elected

## New President of the EFP



Xavier Struillou is the new President of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), the global benchmark in periodontal science and practice and in implant dentistry. Associate Professor of periodontology at the University of Nantes in France, Dr Xavier Struillou succeeds Prof. Filippo Graziani from the University of Pisa in Italy at the top position of the EFP, a scientific organisation that brings together 37 national member societies and more than 16,000 periodontists and other oral healthcare professionals from Europe and around the world. A member of the executive committee of the EFP since 2017 and coordinator of European Gum Health Day 2018, Xavier Struillou is the first Frenchman to lead the EFP since Jean-Louis Giovannoli, who was the federation's first President back in 1992. Listening to EFP-affiliated societies and collaborating closely with them are high among Struillou's priorities: "At the EFP we aim to inspire our member societies, to guide them, and to serve them. The heart and the engine of our federation is our 37 affiliated societies. Their drive is the EFP's drive, and we are deeply indebted to them." For further information contact [press@efp.org](mailto:press@efp.org).

**Source: European Federation of Periodontology**