

# Greece inspired us once again

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Athens, the home of democracy, philosophy and culture, welcomed evidence-based endodontics from 6 to 9 October for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Endodontic Congress. What an interesting combination for those lucky enough to have attended the meeting! The organising committee and the Greek team tried their utmost to satisfy the expectations of the demanding audience. Honestly, with the impressive list of international keynote speakers the organisers were able to attract—Prof Syngcuk Kim (USA), Paul Abbott (Australia), Craig Baumgartner (USA), Edgar Schäfer (Germany), Ken Hargreaves (USA) and Shimon Fried-

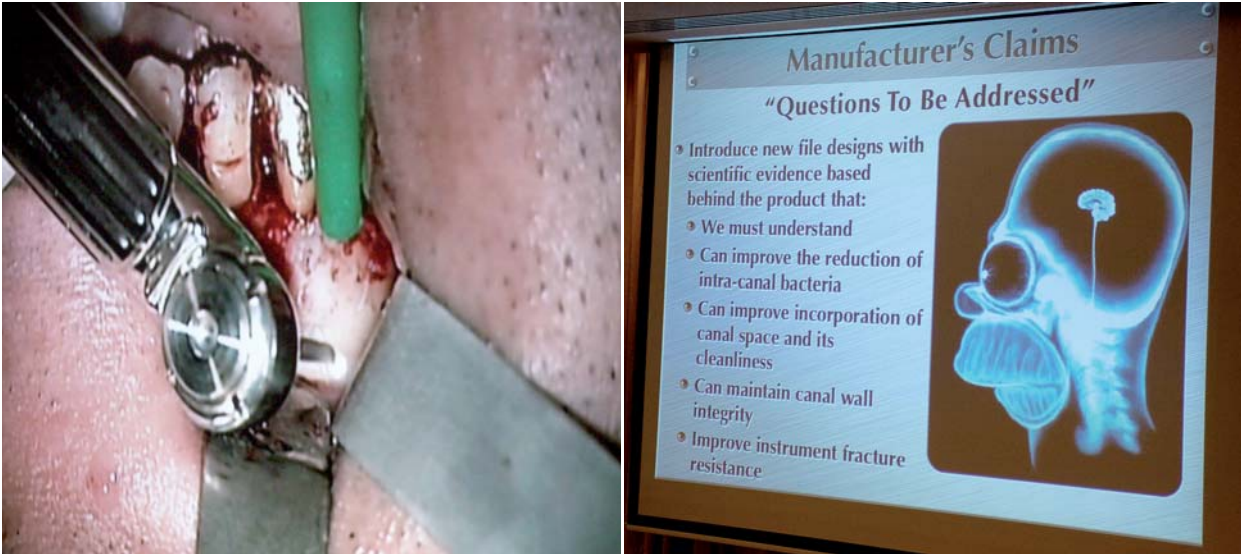
man (Canada)—this was relatively easy. To me, it felt as if chapters of classic endodontic textbooks popped up right in front of me.

The congress was sponsored by major dental industry players. DENTSPLY Maillefer played a key role as gold sponsor of the event. In a pre-congress course with Prof Sergio Kuttler, DENTSPLY launched the new WaveOne reciprocating file. DENTSPLY also organised hands-on courses at their booth and a wonderful cocktail party, which was held on the top floor of the Athens Hilton Hotel. The view of Athens from up there was absolutely breathtaking!

There was a tangible feeling of competition in the entire exhibition hall. The Self Adjusting File team did a great job promoting their new irrigation file structure and VDW and MICRO-MEGA also launched new products. Frankly speaking, promoting anything at this meeting was a difficult task because of the very demanding audience. Each participant sought documentation for just about everything being presented. When appropriate evidence was not yet available, the audience acted with reserve and caution.

The scientific programme was opened with a bit of dental history by Prof John Ingle (USA). Did you know that the first short Walt Disney ever made was on dentistry? In 1922, Walt Disney created *Tommy Tucker's Tooth*, a silent film about children's oral health, while





he was still a struggling cartoonist in Kansas City. Payment for the film allowed Disney to settle debts and head for Los Angeles, where he launched his historic career in animation and moviemaking. I, as well as many others in the audience, enjoyed watching the film for the very first time. Prof Ingle, we are grateful for your contribution to the congress!

Lectures of the highest quality marked the congress in Athens. Prof Hargreaves, Dr Gabriela Martin (Argentina) and many others presented evidence for revascularisation and regeneration efforts. Antibiotic pastes, scaffolds, cells and growth factors performed on the stage under the guidance of the speakers. Researchers and industry leaders are working on these issues and some major advances in this field may be very near.

Dr Enrique Merino (Spain) explored the endo-implant controversy and Dr Giuseppe Cantatore (Italy) lectured on *A critical approach to new NiTi instruments for mechanical glide path*. It was impossible to attend every session, as there were simultaneous lectures in different halls, as well as high-quality poster sessions. One presentation that impressed me in particular was *Three-dimensional photography in endodontics* by Dr Moscoso and colleagues from the University of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain. Imagine your PowerPoint presentations and your microscope videos being transformed into a 3-D visual experience!

Dr Luc van der Sluis (The Netherlands) and the fluid dynamics team were also present and gave an overview of their interesting research on irrigation dynamics and delivery techniques. "Maybe in the future we will produce some kind of bioactive yogurt to fill the canals effectively," commented Dr van der Sluis in a private conversation. In my opinion, until we

do, we will have to present and seek evidence for everything we do.

Effective root-canal debridement and disinfection techniques were reconsidered by Prof Baumgartner in his inspiring lecture. Are we close to sterilisation of the infected root-canal system? According to Prof Baumgartner we are "pretty close".

On the last day of the congress, Prof Kim held a passionate lecture on evidence-based endodontic microsurgery and Prof Friedman's closing lecture offered the best of current evidence for treatment outcomes, supporting what we do and that about which are passionate—*Evidence-based Endodontics*, which was the theme of the congress.

A lucky few had the privilege of watching Prof Kim perform live surgery on a mandibular molar under the microscope. The event was sponsored by Satelec and Carl Zeiss and took place at the facilities of the University of Athens Dental School.

In closing, I would also like to say a few words about the social programme. The welcome reception took place on a cruise boat, at which the Ouzo and Greek wine served offered attendees the opportunity to relax after the high level but exhausting sessions. The Gala Dinner, which was held at the well-known Aegli Zappiou Restaurant, was so entertaining that many of the participants found it difficult to wake up in time for the morning sessions. Prof Baumgartner, we thank you for waking all of us up in the first ten minutes of your inspiring lecture.

I could write many more pages about what happened in Athens during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Endodontic Congress, but I think I have made my point. Thank you Athens! We will remember you as a wonderful host!\_