13th Laser-Beginners-Congress "LASER START UP" and 18th Annual Conference of DGL

_Beginners and experts—together in one big event! The two days were filled with theoretical and practical aspects of laser dentistry. Both events had been very successful in the last years.

For the first time, the two biggest German Laser Dentistry Events had been partnered together. More than 300 dentists took this opportunity to first experience the use of laser light or expand their knowledge in this specialized field of dentistry. This combination of "Beginners and Experts" was a big plus and will be held again this year due its success. Professor Dr Norbert Gutknecht stood as President of the DGL as well as Professor Dr Herbert Deppe and Dr Georg Bach as Congress Chairs of the 13th LEC. The aim of the 13th Laser-Beginners-Congress "LASER START UP" (LEC) and the 18th Annual Conference of the German Federation for Laser Dentistry (DGL) was not only to provide information about improvements in fields surrounding dental laser therapy, but also to introduce new therapy concepts and new aspects of accounting during lectures, seminars and workshops.

In their opening lectures, the conference chairs of the LEC highlighted four main aspects:

_Explanation of basic knowledge of laser light and physics
_Introduction to all major components in laser dentistry
_Presentation of suitable laser wavelengths in dentistry
_Demonstration of legal aspects and billing of laser treatment

The title of the DGL conference was on "Lasers in Implantology and Surgery."

"Please talk about laser-supported endodontics and not about laser endodontics." With this clarification, Prof Dr Norbert Gutknecht started his lecture and defined laser light as an ideal instrument and aid for antibacterial treatment. Photodynamic Therapy, Diagnostics, cavity preparation, bleaching and laser supported Peri-implantitis therapy were the main lecture topics on the first day. One highlight was the live patient demonstration "Laser in Surgery."

The main conference topics on the second day were laser-supported Endodontics, Physics and Basic Research, Laser in Periodontology and Integration of

Lasers into the daily clinic. A very interesting lecture was the "First worldwide laser implant site preparation without any anaesthesia using a drilling template after 3-D planning." Additionally, the programme of the second day was reserved for workshops, as well as the deepening and consolidation of all learnt topics.

The common panel discussion for both evens (LEC/Laser Start Up and DGL Annual Conference) was led by the honorary president of the DGL, Professor Dr Friedrich Lampert (Aachen), the chairman of the scientific advisory board of the DGL, Professor Dr Herbert Deppe and practical dentists Dr Thorsten Kuypers, MSc and Dr Thorsten Kleinert.

The topic "Laser—a Philosophy or an economical factor" led to a lively but controversial discussion and concluded that both assessments do not wholly apply.

Laser dentistry cannot and should not be seen only under the lens of either the economy or philosophy. Rather, it is a unique instrument to be used by specialists.

Prof Dr Matthias Frentzen, Dr Pascal Black and Dr Georg Bach were the experts at the scientific panel discussion. Most questions centred about the topic "Which wavelength is the most appropriate to use?" The clear answer from all perspectives was: The only parameter for or against the use of a certain wavelength depends on the type of activities and objectives of the laser user. Only the dentist him/herself could decide which wavelength is suitable.

Other similarly geared events were targeted at such groups as hygiene representatives. Other topics included "Smile aesthetics" with minimal invasive treatments from bleaching to veneer preparations, "Perfect Smile," a concept for perfect anterior tooth aesthetics, a Symposium about the oro-facial syndrome with live patient demonstrations, as well as a seminar about injection techniques for wrinkle reduction.

Several laser manufacturers and distribution companies not only presented their whole product range, but also illustrated and pointed out their laser devices and philosophies. Participants gladly took advantage of the companies' presence and visited the exhibition, as well as the two generous workshop sessions offered.

A social flair to the event was also not missed. All interested participants met in one of the oldest beer breweries at the Rhine site and enjoyed a "Kölsche Abend" (Cologne evening) with traditional dishes and, naturally, lots of beer.

In 2010, two anniversaries will be celebrated: 50 years of the implementation of lasers by Maiman and 20 years of DGL in November. There certainly exist plenty of reasons to celebrate and come together to discuss the development of laser dentistry!_