

Annual Convention 2010 of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Endodontie in Berlin

Pre-Congress Workshops

This year, the capital city attracted, with a great endodontic program and almost 400 committed participants accepting the invitation.

The first colleagues arrived at the Pullman Hotel "Schweizer Hof" in Berlin City on Thursday at noon, ready for hands-on workshops conducted on the afternoon before the main convention.

Only "early birds" were lucky enough to claim one of the sought-after tickets, because only a limited number of seats was available. Demand was understandably great for presentations on the various systems and technologies on show; exciting concepts and technologies with the potential to enforce a paradigm shift in our endodontic work.

The hands-on workshops which were run by experts, partly by the presenters, partly by representatives of the industry, provided the opportunity to try out file systems at very well equipped workstations and to discover the possibilities and perils of the respective concepts.

Main Convention Friday

In the morning of the first day, Dr. Carsten Appel/Nieder-kassel, the President, and Priv.-Doz. Dr. Christian Gernhardt / Halle (Saale), member of the Board, welcomed all participants in the large Convention Hall of the hotel. After a few organisational notes, the first speaker was introduced, Prof. Gustavo De-Deus from Rio de Janeiro.

The topic of his speech was 'leakage', i.e. the occurrence of bacterial passage-ways in the area of the root filling. Prof. De-Deus was able to deliver tough scientific facts the Brazilian way. In the breaks, the participants could visit the comprehensive dental exhibition. Many important industrial representatives were there with their array of endodontic products.

In the afternoon, Prof. Dr. Dr. Rudolf Reich, an Oral Surgeon, addressed the audience. His speech dealt with the possible complications after endodontic treatments and how they are managed.

The speaker that followed was Prof. Zvi Metzger from Tel Aviv. He introduced the Self Adjusting File (SAF) system. The system is able, in one step, to clean and disinfect the root canal system requiring a single instrument only. Most interesting was his evidence to show how well the SAF manages oval canal structures compared to traditional methods, and how the anatomy is respected.

The second working concept shared by Prof. Ghassan Yared who has dealt for many years with the reciprocal movement of root canal instruments. In his final speech on Friday night, he encouraged thought on implementing new ways of approaching root canal treatment, notably on the effectiveness of working instruments and their resilience to fracture.

Evening Event in the Water Works

The facilitators of this year's Annual Convention had found the ultimate place for the essential evening get-together. In the breath-taking environment of the historic water works of Berlin in Wilmersdorf, guests enjoyed a relaxed evening among the old pumping machines in industrial design.

Main Convention on Saturday

Astoundingly, despite the preceding long night out, the Convention Hall was already full when Prof. Kenneth Hargreaves from San Antonio entered the stage.

Many know this speaker as the editor of the "Journal of Endodontics" and editor of the standard textbook "Pathways of the Pulp". During several enthralling hours, he presented an exceptional summary of regenerative endodontics, ranging from the currently applied and already very well examined method of revascularisation/ root generation, to an insight into research on stem cells and the implications of growth factors in endodontic therapy. His overview was comprehensive and was followed by a question and answer session in which he calmly and explicitly addressed all of the questions of those wanting clarification or wanting to take things more deeply. An impressive speaker whose engagement for this Convention deserves particular thanks from the organising team!

In the afternoon, a particular team excelled with a thrilling presentation on post-endodontic care, an important and complex part of our practical work that requires a periodic update.

Together, Dr. Clemens Bargholz from Hamburg and Dr. Uwe Blunck from Berlin were able to perfectly demonstrate how individual steps of treatment should be performed according to current best knowledge in adhesive technology.

The Annual Convention of the DG Endo allows only one conclusion: With perfect organisation and an excellent choice of top-class speakers, attendance at the Berlin event was definitely very worthwhile! For all of those who keep questioning their actions and aim at getting better and better, it was an absolute highlight.