Digital dentistry conference draws over 500 to Singapore

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Attendance figures for the first CAD/CAM & Computerized Dentistry International Conference in the Asia-Pacific region have exceeded original expectations, the Center for Advanced Professional Practices (CAPP) has announced. According to its figures, more than 520 dental professionals took part in the event, which was sponsored by major market players and saw 14 lecturers from around the globe presenting in fields like computer-guided surgery and 3-D dental imaging.

Plans for a follow-up conference in the city-state are already being discussed and will be announced in the coming weeks, CAPP officials recently told Dental Tribune Asia Pacific. The event will be held in autumn next year after the organisation’s eighth Dubai congress scheduled for May 2013.

CAPP has been organising congresses for dental CAD/CAM and computerised dentistry in the emirate since 2006. As a spin-off of its suc-
successful annual series there, a conference was organised for Asian dentists for the first time this year. Besides a three-day scientific programme, it offered a theatre presentation on chairside CAD/CAM-fabricated restorations, as well as a parallel session that aimed to provide dental technicians in the region with an overview of the latest digital technology and guidelines for its use in dental labs. In addition, renowned orthodontist Dr Khaled Abouseada held a workshop on using ClearPath, a US-developed invisible aligner orthodontic therapy manufactured and distributed by ClearPath Orthodontics in Saudi Arabia, with dental CAD/CAM.

Prof. Seung-Pyo Lee and Shin-Eun Nam from South Korea won the poster presentation competition with their new method of measuring interdental space using 3-D virtual models. They competed against fellow researchers from South Korea and Malaysia, who presented latest findings on digital restoration using implant prostheses, among other things.

“We should all be open to learning about the newest technologies,” Dr Kuan Chee Keong, President of the Singapore Dental Association (SDA), remarked. “CAD/CAM technology is inevitable and it is a very good idea to hold such a conference here.”

Keong added that his association will continue to support CAPP’s efforts in Singapore in the years to come. The SDA has worked with the company over the last 12 months to raise awareness of the event among local dentists, who represented more than 40 per cent of the conference attendees.

The event also received support by Dental Tribune’s flagship publication DT Asia Pacific, as well as its CAD/CAM international magazine of digital dentistry.

CAPP recently partnered with the international dental publisher, agreeing to manage its operations in the Middle East and Africa.
Celebrating the achievements of implant dentistry in the last 20 years, thousands of clinical specialists from Europe and around the globe recently gathered at the Bella Center exhibition and congress venue in the Danish capital for the annual scientific congress of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO). Following a successful event in Athens last year, the congress event more than 2,300 scientists and clinicians involved in implant and restorative dentistry over the course of four days.

Besides an extensive scientific programme covering topics like imaging and factors of implant loss, the event saw a record number of companies exhibiting established clinical solutions.
and a number of new products, including dental implants and sophisticated surgical equipment.

Market leader Nobel Biocare, for example, had its new OsseoCare Pro drill motor, which can be operated entirely through Apple’s iPad tablet computer, on display. Italian manufacturer mecantron presented its multipiezo pro device, which can be used for ultrasonic implant cleaning, in Copenhagen.

New implant devices were exhibited by MIS Implants, MegaGen and BioHorizons.

Held for the 20th time, the EAO’s latest annual meeting looked back on various issues related to implant dentistry from the last two decades. Acknowledging the progress being achieved in the field, a Saturday morning session titled “Future perspectives of implant dentistry” discussed future prospects of bioactive implant surfaces and the use of computer-guided implant planning, among other topics. For the first time, a session organised by members of the EAO’s Junior Committee also presented new revolutionary ideas that could shape implant dentistry in the years to come.

Having originated from a clinical meeting by implant specialists in the late 1980s, the EAO is today an established authority and one of the most important scientific and clinical forums for implant dentistry in Europe. It is comprised of renowned clinicians and researchers from around the world.

With more than one third of visitors coming from regions outside the continent, its annual scientific congress has recently gained more relevance internationally.
Since the 1980s, digital technology has increasingly been used in dentistry. Initially, CAD methods were used in manufacturing glass-ceramic inlays and crowns. Later, stereolithography was used to make guides for navigated implantation. Today, advances in the development of CAD/CAM have reached just about every aspect of dentistry and caused significant changes in some cases. The state of the art in CAD/CAM will be on display at the International Dental Show (IDS) in Cologne from 12 to 16 March 2013.

While not everything is digital and conventional techniques are certainly still necessary, progress continues to advance at a rapid pace. It is a good idea to become well informed about these latest developments, as this is the only way to determine which innovations are important for one’s own work.

At IDS, dentists will discover how the possibilities of CAD/CAM technologies can optimise daily work in their practices, regardless of whether the practice already uses integrated digital processes or plans to do so in the future. In some cases, dental technicians have been benefiting from advancements in CAD/CAM for years. As far as they are concerned, the innovations that will be presented at IDS represent an opportunity to expand the range of services they offer at their own laboratories.
Regardless of whether the issue is CAD manufacturing processes, new materials or advanced milling machines, high-tech is becoming increasingly important in laboratory work. Planning and preparation processes are becoming more detailed and goal-oriented. The virtual process chain actually starts at the dentist’s chair. First, digital impressions of the patient’s teeth are made using an oral scanner. The data is then transferred, a virtual design is made using CAD planning software, and finally a precise visualisation of the functional and aesthetic results is displayed. And all this takes place before treatment even begins!

These techniques not only affect collaboration between the practice and the laboratory, but also offer immediate benefits to the patient. Intra-oral scanners, for example, are very popular because they eliminate the need to take impressions using a moulding compound—a process that is rather uncomfortable for some patients. For patients who are especially anxious, this could be decisive in enabling them to overcome their fear of a visit to the dentist. The intra-oral scanner market is diverse. Thanks to different functional principles and different ways of handling the instrument, the no-contact impression technique appears to have enormous potential. In addition to generating patient loyalty, it also makes collaboration between dentists and dental technicians particularly efficient.

The latest planning tools also contribute to successful dentist-technician cooperation. With these tools, a virtual preview of the planned dental prosthesis can be created. In other words, an important decision-making aid is now in the hands of the patient. It is certainly easier to convince patients of the benefits of a particular treatment when they have the desired results before their eyes. The appropriate software can thus provide valuable assistance during consultations, which is an advantage for both the dentist and the technician.

"Developments in the CAD/CAM segment are making great strides," according to Dr Markus Heibach, Executive Director of the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (VDDI). "Whether it's materials, software, CAM modules or the networking of the individual components and processes, all of the relevant innovations will be presented at IDS in Cologne.

In addition, visitors will have the opportunity to go directly to trade fair stands, where they'll get first-hand information and be able to discuss important issues with manufacturers and experts."

IDS is held in Cologne every two years and is organised by the Society for the Promotion of the Dental Industry (Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Dental-Industrie) and the commercial enterprise of the VDDI, and staged by Koelnmesse.
International Events

2013

2nd BIOMET 3i European Symposium
11 & 12 January 2013
Madrid, Spain
www.biomet3ieuropeansymposium.com

International Dental Show
12–16 March 2013
Cologne, Germany
www.ids-cologne.de

ITI Congress North America
4–6 April 2013
Chicago, USA
www.iti.org

8th CAD/CAM & Digital Dentistry International Conference
2 & 3 May 2013
Dubai, UAE
www.cappmea.com

International Symposium Osteology
2–4 May 2013
Monaco
www.osteology.org

ITI Congress South East Asia
16 & 17 May 2013
Bangkok, Thailand
www.iti.org

MIS' 2nd Global Conference
6–9 June 2013
Cannes, France
www.mis-implants.com

Nobel Biocare Global Symposium
20–23 June 2013
New York, USA
www.nobelbiocare.com

FDI Annual World Dental Congress
28–31 August 2013
Istanbul, Turkey
www.fdiworldidental.org

2nd Asia–Pacific Edition
9th CAD/CAM & Digital Dentistry International Conference
5 & 6 October 2013
Singapore
www.cappmea.com

EAO 2013
16–19 October 2013
Dublin, Ireland
www.eao.org

AAID Annual Meeting
23–26 October 2013
Phoenix, AZ, USA
www.aaid-implant.org

Meetings & Events

CAD/CAM