Henry Schein symposium addresses most progressive topics in orthodontics

Last autumn the orthodontic division of global dental supplier Henry Schein held its second European Carriere Symposium. The event evolved around the Carriere system, which consists of the Carriere SLX self-ligating brackets and the Carriere Motion appliance, and its implications for the future of orthodontics. From 22 to 24 September 2016, about 200 people attended the event, which was held at the famous five-star seaside hotel W Barcelona in Spain.

The Carriere Motion appliance is a device that mimics the body's natural processes using a non-invasive technique to stimulate distalization of the entire buccal segment as a unit. It was developed by Dr Luis Carrière based on Dr José Carrière’s treatment protocol that operates on the premise that achieving a Class I relationship before correcting individual tooth positions is of strategic importance in simplifying nonextraction treatment of Class II cases. It has been shown that the appliance can resolve posterior segments of Class II malocclusion in three to five months, reducing the treatment time by up to 40 per cent.

Kicking off the symposium’s scientific program on 23 September, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Henry Schein Orthodontics Ted Dreifuss said: “It is part of our mission to expand the opportunities that are available for patients and educate orthodontists about these new technologies and techniques.” The symposium, which drew hundreds of participants, speakers and business partners from about 20 countries, including Australia, Japan and the US, therefore provided an exclusive opportunity to learn more about the applications of the Carriere system and other relevant topics from the experts in orthodontics.

Keynote speaker Dr Luis Carrière focused on how facial, skeletal and dental harmony can be achieved using the appliance. Using cases treated at his practice, the Spanish orthodontist demonstrated that orthodontic treatment is a favorable alternative for patients with facial disproportions who would otherwise have to undergo invasive surgery.

“Orthodontists should claim their position as facial-aesthetic specialists. We do not only deliver straight teeth, but provide renewed confidence, new looks and consequently new lives to patients,” said Carrière. “In my opinion, the orthodontist should be the first professional to be consulted when it comes to oral and maxillofacial treatment planning,” he concluded. In his presentation, Dr Sean Carlson, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Orthodontics at the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, demonstrated how 3-D imaging technology can help improve the way orthodontics is studied, taught and practiced. He focused on the visualization of the airway in particular and showed how orthodontic treatment can improve outcomes in patients with temporomandibular disorders or obstructive sleep apnoea.

Also elaborating on the implications of new technologies in orthodontics, program chairperson Dr David Paquette pointed out: “Technology and the opportunities that come with it are changing so rapidly that the knowledge a dental student acquires in his or her first year might be outdated at graduation already. The future of the profession will therefore depend upon how well orthodontists can adapt to change.” Furthermore, the speakers discussed combination with Invisalign braces, accelerated orthodontics and injectables to render treatment even more efficient, among other interesting topics addressed.

Taking stock after the event, Dreifuss concluded: “The second European Carriere Symposium far exceeded our expectations. The feedback from the clinicians attending has been consistently positive with regard to the speakers and topics covered. We were able to show again that the combination of great speakers, topics and destination is the golden formula. All these factors create an environment that is rich and rewarding in every sense. We couldn’t be happier.”

The next European Carriere Symposium will take place from 28 to 30 September 2017 in Barcelona.
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With a 23 per cent growth in exhibitors and a 37.5 per cent increase in attendees, the fifth edition of the Association of Orthodontists (Singapore) Congress (AOSC) in February was undoubtedly the most successful so far, the organisers stated. Over the course of the three-day event, 938 orthodontic specialists from around the world gathered to acquire new knowledge, exchange ideas and foster closer ties within the ASEAN orthodontic community.

“AOSC 2017 ended on a high note for us. We’re honored by the support we’ve received from both local and international attendees,” said Dr Mohanarajah S/o S. Senathirajah, chairperson of the Association of Orthodontists (Singapore) Congress 2017. “We’ve seen a strong increase in local attendees as well as first time participation from countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Croatia and Egypt. The exhibition was bursting at the seams with 83 brands represented by leading manufacturers and distributors.”

In addition to the industry showcase, the scientific programme included keynote lectures by prominent orthodontists, such as Dr Richard McLaughlin, Dr Jay Bowman, Prof. Ravindra Nanda and Dr Greg Huang. In addition, limited-attendance workshops were held on both the pre- and post-congress days—all of which were already sold out before the start of the congress.

Once again, AOSC brought together bright minds in the field of orthodontic research for the scientific poster competition. Of the 36 projects presented, three outstanding works were recognised by the expert jury. Winning the competition was Dr Laurensia Limas from the Universitas Indonesia, who was granted prize money of SGD600 (US$404). In addition, Dr Jason Chua from the National Dental Center of Singapore and Dr Emre Kayalar of Anadolu University in Turkey were both given meritorious awards.

“With the overwhelming success of this edition, plans to expand for the next edition of AOSC are already in the works. We hope to further improve both educational content and bring together more orthodontic professionals in Singapore once again in February 2019,” AOSC President Dr Geraldine Lee Ping concluded.