European Aligner Society Spring Meeting back in Venice

Clear aligner treatment is not a revolution; it’s an evolution

Nathalie Schüller, DTI

For the Spring Meeting of the European Aligner Society (EAS), the organisers again chose the splendid Hilton Molino Stucky hotel on Giudecca island, right across from Venice, the location of its last congress. The event was held from 29 to 31 March and drew 354 attendees from 41 countries, confirming the need of practitioners to experience the latest developments and their interest in learning from experts about aligner technology, an area of continual growth.

EAS was founded by colleagues from Italy, the UK and France as a society aiming to be the main continuing development provider for professionals in aligner therapy. It holds various educational events, including its biennial meeting and interim congresses. The society’s goal is to continue to explore the ongoing advances in the technology and techniques of aligner orthodontics. At the Spring Meeting, new board ambassadors were introduced: Dr Jose Luis Gandia to represent Spain, Dr Sandra Tai of Canada to represent North America, Dr Gina Theodoridis to represent Greece and Dr John Kaku to represent Japan.

The programme kicked off on Friday with pre-congress company lectures, covering aligner orthodontics, light-accelerated treatment options, photo-biomodulation,

From left to right: Dr Alain Souchet and Graham Gardner, EAS Board Members, and Dr Adriano Marotta Araujo. (Photograph: Mauro Calvone)
artificial intelligence and digital orthodontics, hybrid aligner treatment and software protocols, treatment plan optimisation, advanced monitoring and CBCT integration.

On Saturday, the topics of the plenary session were varied. Dr Stephen Chang from Taiwan discussed aligner biomechanics. Teen treatments were the focus of the presentation by Dr Julia Haubrich of Germany. She included a walkthrough of some cases she had treated, one of which was the case of a disabled patient who could be treated remotely only because of aligner technology and the collaboration of his parents, who acted as her clinical assistants in the treatment process. Haubrich also mentioned the importance of giving back to others and referred to Align Technology’s charitable campaign, Act of Random Kindness (ARK), launched in 2015. ARK offers Invisalign treatments to patients with oral challenges who, for medical reasons, cannot be treated with fixed orthodontic appliances but can be treated with aligners.

Enhancing orthodontic treatment and diagnosis using 3-D technology was the theme of the presentation by Dr Sean K. Carlson of California, who told a captivated audience that in orthodontics, as in life, the more information you have, the better off you are, and only then can the best results be achieved. To stay on top of technology, one can never rest and stop learning. All the information one learns from a case is of no use if the associated findings, research and experiences are not shared. He stated, “The more you experience, the better the clinician you become.” This fits in perfectly with the EAS concept of giving dentists a platform for presenting their research and cases and a forum for showcasing the latest developments in aligner treatment.

Dr Cristina Viyuela of Spain explored the keys to obtaining a perfect finish and management of the posterior open bite. Dr Federico Migliori of Italy spoke about asymmetries and aligners, from digital planning to treatment mechanics. It is clear that, even though human beings crave symmetry, most things in the world are asymmetric. Orthodontics deals with finding the symmetries and correcting asymmetries and taking advantage of the great tools it has in order to plan precisely.

To conclude Saturday’s plenary session, digital dentistry came alive via a Skype presentation by Dr Christian Coachman from Brazil, as the first part of a paper delivered in collaboration with Dr Kenji Ojima of Japan. His theme was about staying ahead of the game with comprehensive facially driven digital dentistry using digital smile design and aligners.

To Coachman, aligner therapy is making a little magic happen in bringing the restorative and orthodontic world together by using technology to blend tooth movement and restorations. To him, “Aligner congresses do not belong to a specialty; they belong to dentistry in general.” Coachman believes in a future where there will be no freehand procedures—everything will be guided. Modern patients will not agree to treatments unless they can see what is being planned, understand what is going to happen and have the possibility of controlling the results. It is clear to him that “the better the smile designer we become, the more we see the benefits of orthodontics in our restorative cases”.

To conclude the meeting on the third day, attendees could choose different company workshops to attend for in-depth coverage and experience of the specific topics discussed during the company lectures of the first day.

A fitting conclusion, which describes what we are seeing in dentistry today, would be Leon C. Megginson’s paraphrase:

“According to Darwin’s Origin of Species, it is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself.”

The EAS meeting was able to demonstrate to attendees that one cannot advance in aligner treatment if one does not use the technologies available and take the time to continuously educate oneself.

With the theme of “Let’s go invisible!”, the third EAS congress will be held in Malta from 19 to 21 March 2020. The Maltese minister of health will open the congress, where the latest innovations will be presented by an international line-up of speakers. Attendees can expect two days of plenary lectures, interspersed with breakout sessions and workshops, followed by a half-day of company workshops. The full programme will be announced in November on www.eas-aligners.com.
As of 13 March 2019, Dental Tribune International (DTI) is the official media partner of the International College of Dentists (ICD).

The contract signing, which took place at the DTI and OEMUS media lounge at IDS, was witnessed by DTI CEO Torsten Oemus; Dr Dov Sydney, ICD Editor and Director of Communications; Prof. Mauro Labanca, Registrar, ICD European Section & International Councillor; and representatives of Henry Schein, including Chief Global Communications Officer Gerard Meuchner.

The ICD will celebrate its centennial in 2020 and is, therefore, the oldest and largest honour society for dentists in the world. Dr Sydney, International Editor and Director of Communications, as well as General Chair of the College Centennial Committee, said: “Over the past 100 years, there have been changes in social structure and the economy and yet we have continued to grow because our purpose and our goals continue to be relevant in every age and stage of world development. And now we are going to build on that with DTI and make it a long-term relationship. They help us, we help them, everybody is happy.”

The organisation was conceived by Drs Louis Ottofy and Tsurukichi Okumura with the vision of an organisation of outstanding dentists. Today, the ICD has 12,000 fellows in 122 affiliated countries, from a diversity of cultures and social backgrounds and with different professional experiences.

Henry Schein Inc., named earlier this year, for the 8th consecutive year, as one of the World’s Most Ethical Companies, became the ICD “Centennial Partner” in March 2018.

Through Henry Schein Cares, the company’s global corporate social responsibility programme, Henry Schein will partner with the ICD to recognize the outstanding and meritorious contributions of its members, and extend the global reach of both organisations to carry out and administer educational, training, and humanitarian initiatives.

ICD and DTI sign media partnership agreement
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International Events

5th Annual Congress on Paediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics
15–16 April 2019
Osaka, Japan
https://pediatric.dentistryconferences.com/

Pre-AAO Carriere One-day Symposium
3 May 2019
Los Angeles, US
www.carrieresymposium.com

American Association of Orthodontists – AAO
Annual Session
3–7 May 2019
Los Angeles, US
www.aaoinfo.org/meetings/

SIDO International Spring Meeting
24–25 May 2019
Rome, Italy
http://eventi.sido.it

65th Spanish Society of Orthodontists Congress – SEDO
5–8 June 2019
Granada, Spain
www.sedo.es

95th European Orthodontic Society Congress – EOS
17–22 June 2019
Nice, France

German Society of Orthodontists – DGKFO
92nd Annual Meeting
4–7 September 2019
Nuremberg, Germany
www.dgkfo.de

British Orthodontic Conference 2019 – BOC
19–21 September 2019
Glasgow, Scotland

2019 CAO 71st Annual Conference
19–21 September 2019
Fredericton, Canada
https://cao-aco.org/orthodontics/events/cao-annual-conference/overview/

European Carriere Symposium
Pre-AAO, One-day Symposium
19–21 September 2019
Barcelona, Spain
www.carrieresymposium.com

NESCO 98th Annual Meeting
26–29 September 2019
Boston, US
https://www.nesco.org/meetings-and-education/future-meetings/

Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists – PCSO
83rd Annual Session
3–6 October 2019
Honolulu, US
https://www.pcortho.org/pcsio-rmsio-annual-session/

50th SIDO International Congress
10–12 October 2019
Rome, Italy
http://eventi.sido.it

11th World Implant Orthodontic Conference – WIOC
23–26 October 2019
Bucharest, Romania
www.wioc2019.com

Swiss Orthodontic Society
Annual Congress
31 October–2 November 2019
Interlaken, Switzerland
www.swissortho.ch

22nd Journées de l’Orthodontie
7–10 November 2019
Paris, France
http://www.journees-orthodontie.org/

Southern Association of Orthodontists – SAO
2019 Annual Meeting
14–16 November 2019
Orlando, US
www.saortho.org

78th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Orthodontic Society – JOS
20–22 November 2019
Nagasaki, Japan

20th International Orthodontic Symposium – IOS
29–30 November 2019
Prague, Czech Republic
https://www.iros-prague.com/