

Report on the 73rd European Orthodontic Society Congress

There was a very warm welcome for all the participants to the 73rd Congress of the European Orthodontic Society in Valencia, Spain, matched only by that of the sun, which, on some days, resulted in temperatures of 40 degrees centigrade. For those delegates who arrived early on Tuesday evening there were cocktails on the steps of the Congress Centre where the fountains and lights were synchronized to the music of various well-known composers. In addition we were entertained by 'La Tuna', part of the Law Department of Valencia University, who performed Spanish dances and songs around the fountain. They used instruments of the period and brought back reminiscences of medieval Spain and of the cavalier who would sing and dance in order to win his lady.

The meeting was held in the Palau de la Música, and was opened by the young Orphean Navarro Choir of Valetta with various songs, followed by addresses from the President of the Spanish Dental Association, Dr Alfonso Villa Vigil, and Ilma. Sra. Dña. Carmen Martorell Pallá, General Director of Education and University Investigations for the Valencia Regional Government of Culture, Education and Science. The opening ceremony was then concluded by another series of songs by the adult Orphean Navarro Choir. This was followed by the Sheldon Friel Memorial Lecture given by Professor Bjørn Zachrisson of Oslo on 'Some new concepts for creating beautiful smiles in orthodontics'. This was an excellent lecture which stimulated our interest and taught us some of the reasons why some smiles are beautiful while others are not, and illustrated why Professor Zachrisson is such a well-known speaker.

The W. J. B. Houston Research Awards were then given and this year the oral award went to Dr Sabine Ruf of Germany for her paper entitled 'Temporomandibular joint adaptation in Herbst

treatment. A prospective MRI and cephalometric roentgenographic study'. The other lectures were also excellent and illustrated the quality of the research which is now being undertaken by our postgraduate students. The poster award was given to Juan Perez Varela of Spain for his presentation 'Inflammation and tooth movement: localization of IL-1 α in stressed periodontium'. The poster and table clinic exhibition contained 284 presentations, which illustrated the depth and variety of research being undertaken at this time.

The following session focused on 'Dental aesthetics' and Professor Herman Duterloo in his lecture on 'Dental aesthetics and the spread of excellence' brought us back to earth by pointing out the fact that orthodontists needed to treat those with the severest malocclusions first before dealing with some of the more minor problems. The subject of dental aesthetics was continued in the afternoon when Professor Meropi Spyropoulos spoke on 'Aesthetics and individuality in orthodontics'. Various other members gave papers on the subject. The afternoon was concluded with a lecture by Professor Vincent Kokich on 'Anterior dental aesthetics: the role of the orthodontist'. He illustrated the various ways in which the anterior teeth can be improved to give better dental aesthetics.

On the Wednesday evening coaches transported us to the monastery of Santa María de Puig, which is situated on the outskirts of the city of Valencia. The church and monastery date back to the 13th century and were built in honour of the Virgin Santa María de Puig at the wish of King James I who initiated the taking of the city of Valencia back from the Moors following their occupation between the 8th and 13th centuries. It was a beautiful evening with excellent food and drink and we were entertained by the group Alimara, who were dressed in

garments of the region and performed traditional Valencian dances. Participants also visited the church and the Museum of Printing and returned to their hotels with memories of a wonderful evening.

The session on Thursday was on 'Clinical decisions based on scientific data' and was opened by Professor Per Rygh with his lecture 'Can root resorption be avoided, stopped, repaired?' This was an outstanding keynote address and was followed by a series of equally excellent papers. In the afternoon Professor Lysle Johnston continued the session with 'The value of information and the cost of uncertainty: who pays the bill?' This was a stimulating lecture and was most thought provoking. In the afternoon the topic was 'Searching for stability' and the keynote lecture was given by Professor I. L. Nielsen on 'Facial growth and long-term stability' Once again this was an outstanding day's programme.

In the evening the business meeting took place as, under the new constitution, it is no longer necessary to hold both an opening and a closing business meeting. At the meeting Professor Roberto Martina was elected as President-Elect for the year 2002. There were no nominations for Officers of the Society and the present Honorary Officers were re-elected. The new Councillors are Dr Inger Kjær, Denmark; Professor Ann-Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman, The Netherlands; and Dr Stefan Affolter, Switzerland.

The report of the examination which had been held on Monday and Tuesday in the Valencia Dental School for membership of the European Board of Orthodontists was given. Six examiners, appointed by the Society, under the Chairmanship of Professor Herman Duterloo, conducted the examination very carefully and examined every presented case in order to determine the standard of excellence. The other examiners were: Dr José Carrière, Dr Dominique Grobéty, Dr Peter Grosse, Professor Lennart Lagerström and Professor Olivier Mauchamp. Each candidate produced eight treated cases of a type required by the examination regulations and were also given two diagnostic cases for diagnosis and treatment planning. This was a tough examination and

nine of the 15 people who applied passed. These were: Professor A. Arruda, Dr B. Cudovic, Dr M. Cozzani, Professor H. Droschl, Dr A. Font, Dr M. Milacic, Dr L. Moser, Dr A. Rutz and Dr F. Weiland, and each will be presented with a certificate inscribed with their name and signed by the examiners. The cases of three of those who passed were displayed in the marquee that housed the poster and table clinic exhibitions. The deadline for applications for next year's examination is the **31st October 1997**, and any person who wishes to take the examination should write to the EOS London office for details.

Professor Sten Linder-Aronson then gave a report on the meeting of the National Orthodontic Societies, and also on the Reorganisation Committee and the Society's connections with EFOSA.

In the evening there was a performance by the world-renowned flamenco dancers, María Rosa and her Spanish ballet. At the end of the performance there was a standing ovation for the wonderful evening we had enjoyed.

The Friday session on 'Searching for stability' commenced with a keynote lecture by Professor Donald Poulton on 'Stability of orthognathics and orthodontic procedures' and the session was concluded by Professor Peter Shapiro with an interesting talk on 'Open bite: stability of surgical versus non-surgical treatment'. The last session on 'Non-compliance therapy' included lectures by Professor Juan Cobo on 'Molar distalization with the Pendulum appliance in Class II division 2 malocclusions' and Professor Fujio Miura on 'Stomatognathic functional analysis in orthodontic practice'. The free topic session was held in the afternoon and this was concluded by a lecture by Professor Frans van der Linden on 'Correction of anterior teeth in adults'.

During the meeting over 60 traders displayed their wares and services at various booths. This was an extremely busy time and the traders were pleased with the response of the participants at the meeting. There was a constant supply of coffee, fruit juice and biscuits in the manufacturers' areas which kept the thirsty participants always near the booths. The trade exhibition was



José and Merché Canut

well arranged. In the smaller lecture theatre there was also a very useful manufacturers' forum where the various traders displayed their latest innovations, and it was good to see so many manufacturers. We look forward to their participation again at future conferences.

The gala dinner was held at Las Atarazanas, a 14th-century building used in the past for shipbuilding but now housing the Maritime Museum. Over 400 people attended the gala dinner where we were entertained to a magnificent meal. The warmth of the room was only surpassed by the friendship. The President of the American Association of Orthodontists, Dr Larson Keso, presented the European Orthodontic Society with a beautiful gavel as a token of friendship. This was received on behalf of the Society by Professor José Canut who thanked the American Society most sincerely. Professor Canut then handed the badge of office to Professor Hans Sergl, the new President of the EOS who will be holding the 74th Congress in Mainz, Germany, from the 2nd to the 6th June 1998. Professor Sergl presented Professor Canut with his Past-President's badge and his wife, Ingerborg, presented Merché Canut with a magnificent bouquet of red roses on behalf of the Society.

The Congress still had one more function, the outing on the Saturday to the Devesa Gardens, south of Valencia. The gardens were beautiful and we were entertained by a dancing group

which was followed by an exhibition of horse riding. During the day boats took us on trips along the canals and around the lagoon and the breeze was most refreshing as the day was hot. We returned to a demonstration of paella making where the chefs introduced us to the correct way of making this dish. Having passed the fields where the rice is grown, we were able to appreciate the careful way in which this dish is made. During the Conference a sculpture, which had been made especially for the Congress, and had been on display outside the venue, was burned on a ceremonial bonfire accompanied by firecrackers. Following this the Silver Mill competition took place which consisted of the 'canut', a game where a series of coins are placed on top of a bamboo rod and a 100 peseta coin is then used to knock down the rod. All the various countries represented participated and the final was between Spain and Germany. The German team won the Silver Mill competition and during lunch they were presented with their prizes. After an excellent meal and having thanked our President and his wife for their hospitality and kindness during the week, we had a quick dip in the pool prior to returning to Valencia.

Overall this was a most enjoyable Conference where the heat kept the people in the air-conditioned lecture theatre, rather than the rain!

J. P. Moss
Honorary Secretary