

78th Congress of the European Orthodontic Society, Sorrento, Italy

It gives me great pleasure that one of my first duties as Honorary Secretary is to report on the annual Congress of the Society. All those who attended the meeting will support my feelings: Sorrento is a beautiful place. More than 1700 people were of a similar view and were there between the 4th and 8th of June.

Prior to the start of the Congress the Forum of National Orthodontic Societies and the European Board Examination took place. The following were accepted as Board members: Dr A P Muchitsch (Austria), Dr C Rank (Denmark), Dr H Mimura (Japan) and, from Italy, Drs A Guiducci, B G Maino, M V Materazzo, and P Mura.

Our President, Professor Roberto Martina and his lovely wife, Ambra, welcomed us at the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday evening where a number of local dignitaries were present. There was some classical music to start followed by great performances by musicians and dancers who introduced the right atmosphere to the Congress. It has become a tradition of our Conferences over the years to meet orthodontists from all over the world at the welcoming reception and this meeting was no exception.

The Congress venue offered excellent accommodation for the scientific programme and a large trade exhibition. The scientific programme opened with the Sheldon Friel lecture given by Professor Jim Moss. He gave an excellent overview of the development of three-dimensional imaging and reported on the scientific work carried out during the last decade. He convinced the audience of a great technique with beautiful applications and interesting results. We were even introduced to some beautiful British bottoms which was very much appreciated by a large majority of the delegates. The programme continued with the Houston Award papers, all of which were considered by the awards committee to be of a very high standard.

The first keynote lecture on 'Lingual techniques as a real daily alternative' was given by Dr D Fillion, who showed beautiful clinical material and was able to convince the attendants that this technique, when applied properly, offers great treatment results. This conclusion was supported by the following lectures

on this topic. After lunch Dr W E Roberts started the session on theme 2 by reporting on the clinical experience of three clinicians on defining the anterior limit of the dentition with implant anchorage. Professor F Magni gave the closing keynote lecture. He focused on the importance of the soft tissue profile in this respect. The first day finished with papers on free topics.

The President's reception held in the beautiful gardens of the Hilton Hotel, with great Italian food and wine, was a wonderful experience in an unforgettable setting where we could share thoughts and souvenirs.

On Thursday morning Dr L Graber was the first keynote speaker on 'Orthodontics: new approaches to old problems'. He highlighted the impact of new technology and new orthodontic appliance systems and concluded that 'new' may no longer be assumed to always equate to 'better', but that it is surely different. The programme continued with free topics and two keynote speakers. Professor M Jones discussed the impact on clinical practice of computer modelling in orthodontic biomechanics and presented a finite element method introducing a novel technique for direct measurement of the properties



Roberto and Ambra Martina.

of the periodontal ligament and time-dependent tooth movement in humans. Professor S Kiliaridis spoke on 'Unopposed molars in adults: facts and fiction'. In a clinical retrospective study, he discussed orthodontic treatment procedures to restore cases with moderate or serious over eruption.

At the ceremony just prior to the Business Meeting, Professor Martina announced the winners of the EOS awards: The first Beni Solow Award for the best article published in the European Journal of Orthodontics in 2001 was given to Thilander *et al.* for their paper 'Orthodontic aspects of the use of oral implants in adolescents: a 10-year follow-up study'. The winners of the Houston Research Awards were Dr F Y C Leung (Oral) and Dr A Chayanupatkul (Poster), both from Hong Kong. Drs B Buranastidporn (Japan), L Shum (Hong Kong), and N P Schumann (Germany) received awards for the three best posters displayed at the Congress.

At the Business Meeting the new President, Professor Milan Kamínek, invited the membership to the meeting in Prague in 2003.

The final part of the scientific programme started with a keynote address from Professor S Richmond, who discussed the way of measuring the cost-effectiveness of orthodontic treatment.

The programme on Friday on theme 3, 'The choice between orthodontics and surgery in borderline cases', commenced with two keynote presentations. Both Dr R McLaughlin and Professor A Ferro (and his daughter) discussed the indications and protocol for combined orthodontic and orthognathic surgery treatment. Two more keynote presentations on this theme followed. Dr K Vargervik spoke about function and aesthetics in treatment planning, whilst Professor R Bursati focused on providing accurate information to the patient by implementing an informed consent in cases of combined treatment.

Topic 4 on 'Use and abuse of diagnostic tools' was introduced by Professor S Pallo, who discussed the problems connected with diagnostic tests and when they may be indicated in the diagnostic process of craniomandibular dysfunction. The last keynote speaker on this topic was the undersigned Honorary Secretary who discussed some so-called orthodontic dogmas.

The Gala Dinner was held on Friday evening at a hotel overlooking the sea with views of Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples. The tables were arranged in the garden of the hotel so we could enjoy the views. The food and wine were excellent. The Presidential

Badge was handed to the new President who thanked Professor Martina for his excellent Congress and presented him with the Past President's Badge. Ingerborg Sergl presented the President's wife with a bouquet of flowers. After dinner there was dancing until the early hours of the morning.

The Congress outing on Saturday was to Reggia di Caserta. The coaches took the narrow road along the coast overlooking the sea and then inland to stop at the royal palace, built by Carlo Bourbon in 1752 to rival Versailles and Madrid. It has 1200 rooms, 34 internal staircases, five floors, and covers 45,000 m². Each room was more beautiful than the previous until we reached the one where the king and queen would have sat. This golden room was most impressive with its furniture and decoration.

We were then taken to the English Garden, created for Maria Carolina, wife of Ferdinand IV of Naples. In 1886 John Graefer from England with the help of Carlo Vanvitelli started work in designing the garden. Many plants from all over the world were planted and soon it became a botanic garden as well. After a period of neglect the garden was restored and is now listed by UNESCO as a site of importance to mankind. It was here amongst the shade of the trees that lunch was served.

After lunch the Silver Mill competition took place in which 18 nations participated. The first game was with lemons, which are an important fruit of the area used not only for culinary purposes but also production of Limoncello, a liqueur type drink. The lemons were carried between the knees along a course and given to a member of the team who had to hold them in their arms. The four winning teams then participated in the second game, which was a tug of war. Four ropes were attached to a large molar tooth and the teams had to move the tooth out of the circle drawn on the ground. The President demonstrated the final game which consisted of three sticks; one was placed on the ground, one was laid across it, and the third stick was used to strike the second, spinning it into the air. This stick then had to be hit as far as possible with the third stick. China won the competition with the first hit by sending the stick into the bushes whilst Slovenia could only manage the grass edge.

We owe Roberto, Ambra, and the entire scientific committee a warm thank you for having organized an unforgettable Congress.

Luc Dermout