

79th Congress of the European Orthodontic Society, Prague, Czech Republic

Over 1600 orthodontists (an exceptional number) registered for the meeting under the Presidency of Professor Milan Kamínek. Although we were all aware from the media of the flooding in Prague, all who attended the meeting could testify to the beauty of a clean and superb city, expressing its unique cultural heritage. Professor Kamínek also seemed to have a very good relationship with the local 'weather people' because Prague, during the entire week, was illuminated by gorgeous sunshine.

Prior to the start of the Congress, the Forum of National Orthodontic Societies was held and a number of topics were discussed. It was agreed that the EOS, EFOSA and FEO would chair future meetings of the Forum. At the European Board Examination the following were accepted as Board Members: Hans-Peter Bantleon (Austria); Claude Béguin and Guy Garnault (France); Niko Schepp (Germany); Arni Thordarson (Iceland); Daniel Celli and Sergio Paduano (Italy); Ryuzo Kanomi, Fumihiro Masaki and Shinji Takagi (Japan) and Luis Bravo (Spain).

The Opening Ceremony, where a number of dignitaries were present, was held on Tuesday evening. A choir of high school children performed a variety of local songs that were highly appreciated by the audience. We were then invited to the welcoming reception at the Convention Centre where we could meet orthodontists and students from all over the world.

The scientific programme opened on Wednesday with the Sheldon Friel Memorial Lecture given by Professor William Proffit from North Carolina, USA. He covered, in a very didactic and critical way, the scientific evidence of a number of orthodontic procedures. This was followed by the Houston Oral Presentations. Professor L Johnston then opened the scientific programme with his keynote lecture on 'Evidence based medicine in interceptive orthodontic treatment; cost-effectiveness, long-term results' and reported on 'functional appliances'. He concluded that, in order to work, functional appliances need not modify the pattern of facial growth and that their effect may not differ markedly from that produced by conventional therapy. Topics dealing with this theme were presented by a number of speakers and after lunch Professor A M Kuijpers-Jagtman dealt with 'Cost-effectiveness analysis in orthodontics'. She detailed the outcome of 54 publications over the last 20 years and reported that the terms 'cost-effectiveness' or 'cost-benefit' are widely misused. Professor K O'Brien then



Milan Kamínek.

presented his study on 'How effective is early Twin Block treatment?'. He concluded that early treatment with Twin Blocks is effective in reducing an overjet, severity of malocclusion and improvement in self-esteem and childhood experience. The small skeletal changes observed may not be considered to be clinically significant.

On Wednesday evening the delegates were welcomed by Professor Kamínek and his wife, Eva, to the traditional President's reception at Prague Castle. This magnificent venue provided a beautiful overview on Prague: beer, wine, delicious food and friendship made part of the menu. These combined with the sunshine and summer temperatures made an unforgettable evening.

The session on Thursday morning dealt with 'Open bite, aetiology development, age for treatment and long-term results'. Professor Proffit covered 'Open bite: considerations for effective treatment' and stressed the

importance of the aetiology of the different types of open bite. After presentations on this topic, Professor R Nanda was the next keynote lecturer. The title of his presentation was 'Orthodontic treatment of patients with a high mandibular angle'. He discussed the different methods to control the extrusion of molars in high angle patients without the benefit of compliance. Professor J Årtun then discussed the long-term prognosis of patients presenting with an open bite malocclusion. He concluded that few patients lose incisor overlap long-term after orthodontic correction of dentoalveolar open bite or combined orthodontic and surgical correction of skeletal open bite, while a significant proportion of the patients lose incisor contact. The afternoon started with a keynote presentation by our next President, Professor B Melsen on 'Orthodontic implants, which role do they play?' She concluded that the tissue reaction surrounding the implants is of importance in the selection of loading both with regard to timing and quantity of the force. This was followed by a session on free topics.

On Friday the theme was 'Missing incisors (agenesis, trauma)'. Professor B Zachrisson's presentation was 'Orthodontic tooth movement to regenerate new alveolar tissue and bone for improved single implant aesthetics'. He concluded that moving teeth with the periodontium is a predictable biological way of regenerating new periodontal tissues to increase soft and hard tissue volume. Professor V Kokich then spoke on 'Maxillary lateral incisor implants: overcoming the aesthetic challenges'.

Following the session Congress buses took us to Nelahozeves Chateau where the Lobkowicz family, the original and present owners of the chateau, have gathered a large collection of paintings, porcelain, furniture and musical instrument, as well as one of Beethoven's manuscripts, which make this collection unique in European scale. After lunch the Silver Mill Competition was held in the courtyard of the chateau followed by a dinner in the open-air. A scooter race, tower building and finally beer drinking were the components of the Silver Mill Competition in Prague. The last part of the competition consisted of drinking

a glass of beer with three straws. Three famous beer drinking countries competed, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Belgium. The Belgian team finally proved to be the fastest beer drinkers and won the competition!

On Saturday Professor F McDonald spoke on 'Intracellular signalling science in osteoblasts'. He concluded that calcium is essential to intracellular signalling pathways and the complexity of this signal may describe the variations of gene activity identified following variations of cell stimuli. This research was recently awarded the James IV Professorship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Following a number of free topic presentations, Dr H Paulsen presented his keynote address entitled 'Premolar autotransplantation in orthodontic treatment – 25 years experience'.

Prior to the Business Meeting the award winners were announced. The Committee for the Houston Award for the best oral presentation had recommended that Rishma Shah of the U.K. and Guo Tang of Hong Kong should share the award. The Houston poster award was given to Christopher Lux of Germany and the three EOS best poster awards to Philip Benington (U.K.) Kathy Derringer (U.K) and Rachel Mathew (Australia). The winners of the Beni Solow Award for the best article published in the European Journal in 2002 were Becktor *et al.* for their paper 'Unilateral primary or secondary retention of permanent teeth, and dental malformations'.

On Saturday evening the classic Gala dinner was held in a brewery at the Strahov Monastery. At the end of the dinner, Professor Kamínek passed the Presidential badge to Professor Melsen. She thanked Professor Kamínek and the entire organising committee and invited all attendants to Aarhus for the 80th annual EOS Congress between 7–11 June.

We are all very grateful to Professor Kamínek and his organising committee for the excellent preparation and organisation of 79th Conference of the EOS, which will remain in our thoughts as an unforgettable event in an exceptionally beautiful city.

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