



# Laser Florence

*A WINDOW ON THE LASER MEDICINE WORLD*

## **Rapport on Laser Florence 2002**

The medicine of the future has come back again with the 17th edition of "Laser Florence 2002", the international congress which involved, from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, many great experts of this field.

A future which is already reality in several sectors of the medicine: from ophthalmology to the day surgery and aesthetics, with more and more and far less invasive instrumentation, to the dentistry – for the new surgical operations with the laser's use- to other non-surgical sectors, such as physiotherapy and diabetology.

Besides, experts of national and international reputation have showed the progress of the lasertherapy in the vascular surgery (H. P: Berlien, Berlin; D. D'Anna, Udine; J. Kubota, Tokyo) , urology (A. Hofstetter, Munchen; GB: Muraro, Ancona), otorhynolaryngology (V. Oswal, Cleveland, UK).

Very important news have emerged in the sport medicine with the discovery of some action mechanisms of anti-phlogosis lasers, which are employed even in rheumatology and rehabilitation.

The long lasting results awoke much interest in the treatment of angiomas and scars (G. Hruza, K.Khatri, USA), and in the hirsutism and hypertrichosis (E. Battle, Boston).

We had even a complete review of the state-of-the-art technologies in the laser diagnosis, with much regard to the oncologic, urologic, gynaecologic sectors.

For the first time in Italy it has been possible to observe the new surgical operations for the treatment of the hernia of intervertebral disk in day surgery. Professor Daniel Choy (Columbia University of New York), Director of Laser Spine Center, has carried out, on air, some operations using a laser needle and, guided by a low intensity radiographic instrumentation, has eliminated suddenly the diskal hernias.

Professor Isaac Kaplan, who first used the laser in surgery, has showed the state-of-the-art of the CO<sub>2</sub> laser's use in surgery.

Professor Gary Lynn Powell (Faculty of Dentistry, Utah University, Salt Lake City, USA), who first has employed the laser in odontoiatric field, has outlined its use in his sectors, while Professors J. Anders (USHUS Bethesda, USA), J. Basford (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA) and G.D. Baxter (Ulster University, UK), who are the major international experts for using non-surgical lasers in physiotherapy, have shown its applications in this field with the support of absolute scientific demonstrations.

K. Atsumi, emeritus Professor of Tokyo University, has listed the correct uses of lasers in medicine and surgery, underlining the need of forming a real Specialization School post degree which regards only the medical-surgical laser technologies, so as it happened in the Radiology's sector. Also Professor Narong Nimsakul (Bangkok University and President of Asian-Pacific Association for Laser Medicine and Surgery) agrees with him.

Professors L. Corbellini (Chieti University), N. Mortellaro (Catania University), A. Vaitkuviene (Vilnius University) have shown all the possible techniques that can be applied in day surgery outlining the fact that it is possible to avoid hard operations with long post-surgical course and with compulsory hospitalization in day surgery even if they should be carried out in aseptical room.

Prof. R. Malek (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA) has shown the results – at distance - of the laser prostatectomy's operation which requires a short recovery without complications.



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Prof. S. Bown (London University) has skillfully shown the topical laser's employment in gastroenterology and in the endoscopic treatments of tumors.

Prof. H. Moseley (Dundee University), who was also the moderator of the session, has discussed about the scientific bases and the laser's employment in the photodynamic therapy.

Each sector of the medicine and surgery has been considered in this event, and, for each one, we tried to show the advantages and the limits in the correct use of this instrumentation updated with the recent scientific data.

The delegation of the World Health Organization and of the European Community have confirmed the guide lines to be heeled in this field of research and have unanimously agreed that the Congress has arrived to the "critic mass" as for what concerns his scientific value. Thus means that Laser Florence has become one of the main world appointment, and, at the same time, international congress with practical courses recognized by the major national and international institutions.

The organization of the scientific part and of the courses has been carrying out by the International Academy of Laser Medicine and Surgery, founded in Florence by 50 among the major world experts for the constant updating of the specialists.

Six young researchers have been awarded for the excellent quality of their works. In details, these works concern the non-surgical laser's use for the photodynamic therapy of the cutaneous spinocellular carcinoma (Ghent University), for some innovative odontoiatric applications (Bucharest University), for the vitiligo's treatment (Tehran University), for some laser surgical applications in day surgery (Catania University) and for the discovery of some laser's mechanisms of action in phisyotherapy (Campinas University, Brazil; Manchester University, UK).

A thank to all the institutions that have given their support, as the Presidence of the Republic, the European Union, the Minister for the Education, University and Scientific Research, the Region of Tuscany, the University of Florence and the Medical Order of Florence.

Other participants: the main international scientific societies of Laser Medicine and Surgery, of Medical Electronics, of Optics and the representatives of the World Healthy Organization. Ente Cassa di Risparmio has contributed to the realization of this event which brings much more prestige to the city.

Laser Florence 2002 four-days in the wide rooms of Villa Viviani, in Viale D'Annunzio 230, on the hill near Settignano.

A series of conferences, from 11,30 a.m. to 1,30 p.m., held by the experts of several sectors has been open to the public that have asked many questions and suggested some ideas. All this is justified by the fact that laser, in medicine, is showing a continuous and quick evolution.

We need a more and more accurate specialization in order to better employ it.

It is sufficient to have a look at the list of the sectors of his employment to consider the dimension of this congress and of the courses: base research, biology, cardiovascular apparatus, plastic surgery, endocrinology, diabetology, dentistry, dermatology, flebology, general surgery and endoscopy, gynaecology, microsurgery, ophthalmology, diagnosis and photodynamic therapy, research of new applications, rheumatology and sport medicine, urology, fisics, engineering.

Next year the Congress and the Courses will be held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November and we are sure of much wider presence of the public and of the scientists who can show new scientific discoveries for the safe of the World's Health.