



LASER FLORENCE 2004

## Rapport on Laser Florence 2004

(By Leos Navratil)

*In the days of October 28th– 30th, 2004 was held in Florence, Italy, already 19th International Congress of Laser Medicine, which has been organized by International Academy for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery (I.A.L.M.S.). Professor Leonardo Longo, M.D. was President of this Congress.*

*The Congress presents in Laser Medicine an action with longest tradition. It takes place many of years not only in the same town but also in the same halls. The connection of monumental town's atmosphere, in which the history pulsates with each walk, with the scene of magnificent Renaissance small castle providing an exquisite view on the town, touches on majority of participants as a magnet, which attracts them every year in October-November into the town upon the river Arno.*

*Every year many specialists studying possibilities to use lasers in experimental as well as in clinical medicine meet here and many personal friendships between them were taken up.*

*As in every years so in this many prominent specialists in laser therapy took part in honourable as well as in organizing and scientific committees.*

**Program Chairpersons** were K. Khatri, MD, M.L. Pascu, PhD, W. Waidelich, PhD

**Honorary Committee** were M. D'Ovidio, MD; A. Hofstetter, MD; I. Kaplan, MD; R. Malek, MD; V. Oswal, MD; M. Postiglione, MD ; A. Sona, PhD.

**Scientific and Organizing Committee** were J. Anders, PhD; B. Azaz, MD; G.D. Baxter, PhD; A. Baruchin, MD; P. Bugli, MD; S. Gabay, PhD; V. Jeganathan, MD; A. La Torre, MD; G. Lynn-Powell, DDS; R. Lubart, PhD; M. Marumo, MD; M. Marchi, PhD; L. Navratil, PhD; T. Oshiro, MD; P. Smalley, TN; E.P. Tomasini, Eng; J. Vaitkus, PhD; A. Vaitkuvienė, MD

*On the whole 304 participants from 42 worldwide countries took part in the Congress. 120 young specialists took part in conference, 60 granted within the Programme of European Union of Marie Curie thanks to indomitable effort of the President of Congress .*

*Congress passed under the sponsorship of important Italian and foreign institutions and municipal celebrities, as the North American Consul in Florence, the Vice-President of the Honorary Consuls in Italy, the President of the Florence Medical Association, the representant of the Major of Florence.*

*The conference was divided in 14 sections: laser safety; PDD/PDT; basic research; laser and light biomodulation; conventional and laser methods – comparisons and controversies; orthopaedics; laser diabetology; phlebology and vascular lesions; laser, light and skin; laser rehabilitation and sport medicine; urology; ophthalmology; dentistry; resurfacing and rejuvenation. 96 lectures have been reported, and 11 posters demonstrated. The programme has been supplemented by 2 workshops.*

*It was sometimes difficult to take decision what would be the most interesting, because the programme had 3 parallel sections. Some of the themes were quite new! Par instance the study bearing to mechanism of light and*



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therapeutic laser action on tissue. Further the possibility of laser using in therapy of diabetes mellitus, contribution of therapeutic laser in healing of traumatogenic lesions of spinal cord and others.

International symposium was supplemented traditionally by educational courses above all for young specialists. They can in this manner acquire a complete information in given problems and meet with prominent world-known specialists.

A session of committee I.A.L.M.S. (Executive Committee Assembly) was also part of special programme. Participants of the session became acquainted with economic situation of the Academy and its projects above all in the sphere of young specialists education. A vital discussion was dedicated to the possibility of own journal issue, eventually connection of the Academy with some of already editing laser titles. New members acquisition above all young colleagues personates a task for all Academy members. The Academy has at present 264 members and five special cooperative societies from Rumania, Israel, Lithuania, Australia and Czech Republic.

The special programme was supplemented traditionally by the opulent social programme. Congress opening was realized in the fascinating Palazzo Vecchio, which had been built in the years 1299 – 1314 as residence of City Corporation, which lasts for today. All participants was fascinated by its great hall (Salone dei Cinquecento), which is 53,7 m long, 18 m wide and 22 m high. Its decorations had been created above all from Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti. The President of the Health Commission of the Common of Florence, madam S. Agostini, MD, gripped all participants with her excellent speech by the ceremonial opening. Excursion along Florence was also unforgettable. Participants admired not only the town but also Medicean treasure in Archaeological museum or Palace Pitti. The dinner in Toscana style was delicious too. The summit of congress was the Gala evening in one of medieval palaces in Florence.

The authors of the best lectures and posters and also of those, who had merit in development of laser therapy, were here rewarded.

This year's following Authors were rewarded in particular categories:

- ❑ **Michelle Copeland, MD:** Radiofrequency energy as non-surgical alternative for facial rejuvenation. (Mount Sinai Hospital, New York - USA)
- ❑ **Ali Gur et Al, MD, PhD.** Comparison of efficacious of low power laser and physiotherapy in the management of painful knee osteoarthritis: a single-blind, randomised and placebo controlled trial. (Medical Faculty of Dicle University, Diyarbakir, Turkey)
- ❑ **M. Matsutomo et Al.,** Eng Development of brain tumor demarcation technique using two-colour laser-induced fluorescence. (Yamagouchi University 2.16.1 Tokiwachii, Japan)
- ❑ **K. Moghissi, MD, PhD** Photodiagnosis (PDD) and photodynamic therapy (PDT) in oncology with particular reference to lung cancer. (Cardio-thoracic Surg, Clin., Yorkshire Laser Center, London, Great Britain)
- ❑ **S.V.L.G. Naidu et Al, MD** The Use Of Low Output Laser Therapy To Accelerate Healing Of Diabetic Foot Ulcers. A Randomized Prospective Controlled Trial (Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Seremban General Hospital, Seremban, Malaysia)
- ❑ **Lenka Veverkova et Al, MD** Morphological changes in rabbit's vein following laser therapy. (Ist. Department of Surgery, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)
- ❑ **Augustina.Vila Echague et Al, MD.** Multiple apocrine hidrocystoma of the face treated with smoothbean laser. (Wellman Laboratory of Photomedicine- MGH, Boston - USA).  
The poster of authoresses from Czech Republic was evaluated as the best:
- ❑ **Helena Jelinkova, Tatiana Dostalova et Al, MD.:** Interaction of ER:YAG laser radiation with ureter tissue. (Czech Technical Univ. Nuclear Sciences Phys.Eng., Prague, Czech Republic)  
These Authors could come back in Laser Florence the next year free of the charge.



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*Special awards for their continuous high level scientific contribution were given to:*

**Penny Smalley**, TN, TCI Chicago, USA

**Joe Niamtu**, MD, Maxillofacial & Cosmetic Facial Surgery, Richmond, USA

**John Chiu**, MD, California Center for Minimally Invasive Surg., Thousand Oaks, USA

**Giuseppe Tam**, MD, Udine, Italy

**Masashi Marumo**, MD, Marumo Clinic, Osaka, Japan

*Perhaps only weather didn't favour for the participants, because it was raining often.*

*Interjection „Vivat Laser Florentia 2005“ encouraged participants of Congress by leave-taking.*

*Regarding Laser Florence 2005, the next November 10th -12th 2005, there will further news.*

*Vasant Oswal offer a grant of Eurodollars 250 for the best lecture of the years 2005-2006, as Vasant Oswal Foundation.*

*The IALMS propose further Eurodollars 250 for the best lecture of the same years.*

*In addition, special awards were assigned for the best presentations of each Conference session, included free subscription for the next conference.*

*See you to Florence the next November!*