

Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht

ISLD President and Scientific Chairman



Welcome to the European Capital of Culture

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a great honour and a pleasure for me to invite you to our ISLD Congress in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, for an unforgettable experience of technology and culture going hand in hand to create an outstanding event. I am also very happy about the decision for DGL to join ISLD by executing their annual congress together with the ISLD in Plovdiv.

Plovdiv, established 4,000 years ago and, therefore, being the oldest city in Europe, celebrates this year its appointment as European Capital of Culture. There will be an array of attractive events all year around where people from all over Europe and other parts of the world will come to Plovdiv to enjoy participating in the celebrations and experiencing art works by many international artists. Against this backdrop, Plovdiv, the European Capital of Culture 2019, was a natural choice and unanimously selected as the best site to hold the 17th World Laser Congress of ISLD.

The International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD) was established in Japan in 1988. Thirty years later, the ISLD celebrated its Pearl Anniversary during the Laser Dentistry World Congress held in Aachen, Germany. The congress was a great success and more than 540 participants from 43 countries enjoyed a high level of scientific presentations, warm hospitality and a friendly atmosphere. It was, indeed, an unforgettable event and an ideal time for staging the revival of our prestigious Dental Laser Society.

Myself and many other colleagues representing numerous national dental laser societies were determined to

place ISLD as an outstanding scientific organisation in laser dentistry.

We feel very much encouraged to see more and more new membership applications. Colleagues from all over the world are eager to join ISLD and the number of national laser societies that choose to be part of our organisation is constantly growing. I believe that all of us, dental laser users worldwide, would like to see a bright future for Laser Dentistry. Your participation in our upcoming ISLD Congress, which will take place in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 6–8 June 2019 is essential in strengthening ISLD and its main goal to enrich the knowledge of its members and to promote professional excellence in the use of lasers through science research and education.

Prof. Georgi Tomov, our organising Chairman and his team, together with the Bulgarian Society for Laser Dentistry are already in full action and look forward to hosting us in their attractive city. I also look forward to seeing you joining us in a great celebration of science and art under the umbrella of ISLD, the leading World Laser Dentistry Organisation in beautiful Plovdiv. Welcome to Plovdiv in 2019.

Yours,

Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht