

AALZ - WALED

Newsletter 1, 2021

Dear MSc graduates, dear Mastership graduates, and dear MSc and Mastership students,

With this first newsletter I would like to update you about latest news at AALZ/WALED, but also about important news and events in the world of laser dentistry.



New Scientific Directors of AALZ

After the tragic death of our beloved AALZ and WALED director Prof. Dr. Norbert Gutknecht on the 19th of July 2021,



we all were for weeks in a kind of shock situation, because nobody – really nobody would have foreseen this, as we all

for sure remember our director Norbert is an always smiling, very kindly, legendary leader of us all, and for sure for many of you a second “father” person. In several meetings, and together with the family Gutknecht - especially with Norbert’s stepson Stefan Schreiber (MSc student now), we decided to continue AALZ in a new structure with Dimitris and Rene as



New Scientific Directors

It is our pleasure to announce our new scientific directors, Assoc.-Prof. Dr. Rene Franzen and Dr. Dimitris Strakas (DDS, PhD, MSc), who will take over the academic leadership of our beloved Prof. Dr. Norbert Gutknecht, who recently passed away.

Both, Rene and Dimitris, bring with them about 20 years of academic, scientific, and clinical experience in the field of lasers in dentistry, as well as approved leadership in their respective professions and positions in scientific institutions.

We at AALZ, Aachen Dental Laser Center, are sure that we found the best possible solution for continuing the legacy of our late scientific director Norbert Gutknecht. We will strive to continue our successful way as world-wide leading dental laser institute, offering outstanding academic and clinical education on an evidence-based basis.

Your AALZ team



our scientific directors. Also Stefan Schreiber will now be integrated at AALZ, and slowly but steadily work with us in the new structure, wherein we strive to continue AALZ’s leading place as the worldwide number one dental laser education & research institution. We are actually working hard to present you very soon a complete new AALZ structure, but this will be explained in detail in the upcoming 2nd edition of this newsletter.

8th International WALED congress in Cairo on 26 of May 2022, a joint congress with the ISLD congress from 26-28 May 2021

WALED congress day on 26 May 2022



For all those, which are still confused: What is WALED?

WALED (World Academy for Laser Education in Dentistry) is the alumni club of the Mastership and Master of Science programs in Lasers in Dentistry of Aachen Dental Laser Center (AALZ) at RWTH Aachen University. Members of this academy are only students, graduates and alumni of Master of Science (M.Sc.) and Mastership/ Fellowship programs of RWTH Aachen University / Aachen Dental Laser Center (AALZ) in the field of lasers in dentistry. WALED'S vision is the realization of an academy of excellence for postgraduate education and research in laser dentistry. This means also that ONLY YOU can participate in our congresses, AND NOT dentists which did not graduate at AALZ – WALED. It will be very important for us, to welcome you all after this very long pandemic time, which brought us so much terrible things.

Please find also more information about WALED on our AALZ website by clicking here: <https://www.aalz.de/waled/>

Our 8th WALED (World Academy for Laser Education in Dentistry) congress in Cairo on 26 May 2022 will be dedicated to our beloved past director Prof. Norbert Gutknecht.

As a tribute to his person, our just graduated 2019 master class will present a mix of their master theses and clinical cases, as this class was really excellent during the exams, and produced unbelievable 3 graduates with excellence! Furthermore, we will update you about our new AALZ structure, with a lot of news to show, and for the first time

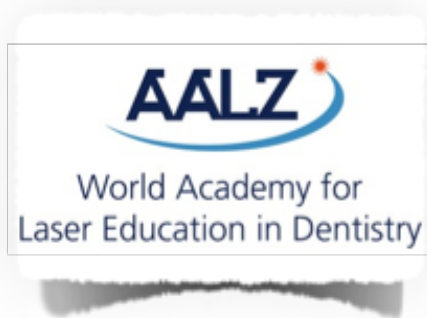


Welcome speech of Prof. Norbert Gutknecht during the 7th International WALED Congress in Plovdiv 2019

also special AALZ gadgets to become, buy or order during this congress. Last but not least our new scientific directors Rene and Dimitris will present a laser knowledge quiz in a very enjoying educative way in order to update your laser knowledge, wherein the whole auditorium will participate! Enough content to fulfill our WALED philosophy of life-long-learning in laser dentistry!

And this is not enough. We will finish our WALED day as always with our already traditional WALED Get-Together party, for sure a highlight of these days!

For joining in both congresses, you have to register in the website <https://isldcairo2022.com>



You will register your participation for both congresses together, and you can also send your abstract submission when you like to do a presentation during the ISLD congress. The deadline date has been changed to a later date, but it will be important to submit your abstract soon! But before doing this, I strongly recommend you to become a member of ISLD. For only 30€ yearly, you will be already member, and you will have significant reductions for future congresses, including the Cairo congress: <https://isldlaser.com>



ISLD World Congress from 26-28 May 2022 in the Cairo Marriott Hotel



This for all of us very important congress, under the chairmanship of our AALZ-WALED academic co-worker Dr. Youssef Sedky, will be the ultimate opportunity to join again our worldwide laser community have having “survived” the most difficult Covid pandemic time.

The ISLD – International Society for Laser Dentistry was for sure a “child” of our past director Prof. Norbert, and the executive board includes the AALZ members Dr. Dimitris Strakas, Dr. Stefan Grümer and Prof. Marcia Marques, as well as Dimitris Strakas and myself in the organization board. It is therefore almost “mandatory” to support ISLD, to become (for only 30€ yearly) a member of ISLD (in case you are still not), and to participate in the upcoming ISLD world congress, being our WALED joint congress, where you can enjoy the 2 best dental laser congresses and 2 great social events during these 3 days from 26-28 may 2022 in the incredible Marriott Hotel Cairo for only 320€ being ISLD and WALED member!

Virtual ISLD Congress “Prof.Gutknecht Laser Symposium” 6-7 November 2021

The ISLD will organize the First International Online Meeting in the memory of Prof. Norbert Gutknecht on 6 and 7

November 2021, as announced already in all social media.
The scientific program of this virtual congress will be published in the upcoming days as well.



A promotional poster for a laser symposium. At the top left, it features the '18th ISLD CAIRO LASER DENTISTRY WORLD CONGRESS' logo with the dates '26 - 28 MAY 2022' and the tagline 'HISTORY CARVED WITH LASER'. In the center is a portrait of Prof. Norbert Gutknecht, a man with a mustache wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the portrait, the text 'Prof. Gutknecht's LASER SYMPOSIUM' is written in white and blue. Below this is a calendar icon showing the dates '6,7 November 2021' and the time '13:00 - 16:00 CET'. At the bottom, it says 'The 1st Online International Meeting In Memory Of Prof. Norbert Gutknecht'. The footer contains three logos: AALZ (World Academy for Laser Education in Dentistry), Miu (Mishr International University), and ISLD.

The program of this remarkable scientific event in memory of our beloved past AALZ director will be – with one exception – exclusively filled by his AALZ – WALED graduates. The link to join this online Zoom meeting will be sent via the social media, so please check the program and the timings. The program will be Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 November German Time 1-4 pm! Do not miss this online event, and please inform also your colleagues, because the congress is FREE and can be seen by everyone!

In Memoriam

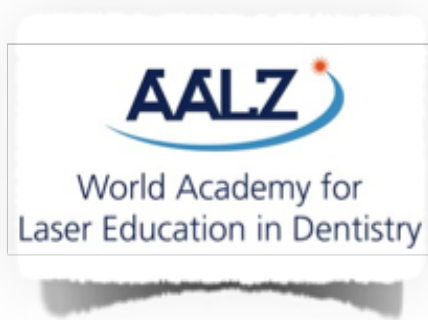
We bow our heads in sorrow as we mourn the passing of Prof. Dr. Norbert Gutknecht in Summer 2021. We lose more than a leader in laser dentistry and a great teacher; we are mourning the loss of a friend. He will remain in our souls and prayers. We express our deepest condolences to his family and relatives. Words alone can not tell how we feel.

His life was dedicated to build up knowledge, from his pioneering works in laser dentistry at RWTH Aachen University, debunking the dubious laser claims of the early years and researching what really worked and how to use this amazing technology, on to his school project in Kenya and his last stay in Namibia where he helped establishing the dental school at the University of Namibia.

He has motivated us all to learn and to study and to discover new ways in the healing with lasers. We will make sure that all studies at AALZ can go on, as Leon, Uschi, Dimitris and Rene will do all to keep the quality of the lectures on our known high levels. We see you all more as our laser family than just as students, and we want to thank you for the condolences we received from so many of you. Together as a laser family we will go on together and keep Norbert's spirit alive as he would have wanted it.

We will carry on his vision and his memory, to share his knowledge and passion with the world of dentistry. We miss you now and forever, Norbert.

René Franzen



In Memoriam

Words cannot describe the void that instantly was created inside me and i believe all of you, when informed that our beloved Prof. Gutknecht left us on the evening of July 19th, 2021.

From the day i met him in Aachen back in 2002, he immediately influenced deeply my professional life as a dentist, but he also inspired me with his passion on laser dentistry.

A passion that made him a true pioneer in the field and distinguished him with his inner flame for exploring scientifically the biophysics and mechanisms behind this advanced technology.

He shared this knowledge worldwide. He devoted his professional life in laser dentistry education and he became the beacon for every dentist who wanted a trusted navigation path into the vast ocean of - in many cases - misleading and contradicting information.

I was lucky and honored to be graduating from the very first MSc Course of AALZ in 2004. Since then i have met and got to know many friends and colleagues from what we call today, our big laser family, WALED. And Aachen Dental Laser Center became the team i serve and cherish for the last two decades.

For me there is only one word to describe Prof. Gutknecht. Irreplaceable.



But it is our duty now to continue his legacy to honor him and his beloved family. Leon, Rene, Uschi and myself, will strive to promote top quality continuing education in laser dentistry under the values he kindled to us all. Norbert we thank you deeply and forever. You will always be remembered as our teacher, our mentor, our friend and the shining star in the sky that sends its kind light to us as we bow our heads in gratitude.

Dimitris Strakas



Hoping that you enjoy this first AALZ – WALED newsletter, and that we will have the honor to welcome you all in our upcoming events. We will update you soon again about our AALZ – WALED news and activities. A suggestion for a nice original name for our newsletter would be very welcome!

Wishing you an excellent time,

Leon Vanweersch

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