

Press information

Presentation of the 1st Award for Laser Innovation at the Annual Meeting of the German Dermatological Laser Society (DDL) in Recklinghausen

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Published online: 25 July 2006
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The successful 15th Annual Meeting of the German Dermatological Laser Society e.V. from 5–7 May 2006, with live operations and 20 workshops, attracted more than 150 participants from home and abroad to Recklinghausen, the city of the Ruhr Festival (Ruhrfestspiele).

One hundred and fifty doctors and an interested specialist public attended the Annual Meeting of the German Dermatological Laser Society e.V. (DDL). The DDL Annual Meeting is an important laser conference on the German-speaking soil and presents top-flight speakers from all sectors using laser lamp and flash lamp therapies. Discussions on progress in established laser treatment and the latest developments were held by specialists in scientific sessions and workshops, such as, for example, alternatives to operative surgery for the reduction of lines by the use of lasers and other light sources, and *Botulinum* Toxin Type A (Botox) for the treatment of frown lines or for filler substances.

The accompanying industrial exhibition introduced state-of-the-art developments in the sector of laser medicine. The DDL 2006 Award for Laser Innovation went to Dieter Manstein M.D., (Wellman Laboratories of Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts). Dr. Manstein was honoured for his pioneering innovation in the area of fractional photothermolysis (FP) for skin rejuvenation.

The 15th Annual Meeting of the DDL far exceeded the expectations of its members—a total of 150 participating doctors from German-speaking regions—by the great variety of information available on the sector of laser safety and the consideration of new indications for laser skin treatment. This is thanks to the cooperation between the DDL, the skin, allergy, vein and environmental diseases clinic at the Recklinghausen Miners' Hospital (Knappschaftskrankenhaus), under the direction of Meeting President, Prof. Dr. Maria Zabel, and Meeting Secretary and senior registrar Frank Rietschel, in joint collaboration with the conference organisation company Logi-Vent GmbH.

Twenty workshops with live treatments were held within the context of the Annual Meeting on the Friday. These ranged from facial rejuvenation with the Fraxel Laser to the live operation (OP) of a hung upper eyelid (blepharoplastics). The company Video-ART transmitted the treatments live from the operating theatres in sound and vision. Presenters included noted doctors, such as Dr. Gerhard Sattler. Camera recordings backed up the examinations and applications carried out, for example, by specialists such as Prof. Dr. Dipl. Phys. T. Proebstle, Dr. Anita Rütter and Dr. Gerd Kautz.

The programme of events contained in addition numerous short lectures, which were presented with the best video technology. Subject matters included laser (treatment) in phlebology, inflammatory dermatoses, pigments and epilation, rejuvenation treatments, fillers, *Botulinum* Toxin Type A (Botox), flash lamp technology, radio frequency therapy, avoidance and handling of complications, perioperative surgery treatments, operative surgery procedures and invoicing matters. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the

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DDL followed on from the Annual Meeting and took place on the Saturday under the chairmanship of president Dr. med. Wolfgang Kimmig, first vice-president Dr. Med. Gerd Kautz and second vice-president Dr. med. Nikolaus Seeber. Within the context of the Annual Meeting, the chairman again stressed that intense pulsed light (IPL) applications, such as laser skin treatment, without fail should only be performed by doctors or under direct medical supervision, and should also be carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Radiation Safety Commission (www.ssk.de) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU). These doctors must have special qualifications (see below). This is also the only way to prevent adverse risks and adverse reactions in future. This event was accepted for the post-graduate course

of study (leading to a) “Diploma in Aesthetic Laser Medicine” (D.A.L.M.) at the University of Greifswald under the direction of Prof. Dr. Dr. Ulrich Westermann, and certified by the Medical Review Board of Westphalia-Lippe. At the industrial exhibition held parallel to the Annual Meeting, where representatives from national and international companies were gathered, technical discussions took place on the sensible use of lasers and specialist adjacent areas. Following the end of the theoretic part of the laser safety course on Sunday, there was still ample time for participants to enjoy the Ruhr Festival (Ruhrfestspiele) in Recklinghausen.

For additional information go to: www.ddl.de, www.laserstudium.de