THE TOOTH, THE WHOLE TOOTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH!

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When I sit down to write these Editorials, I feel like I am sitting in the fabulous time machine of HG Wells, because I seem to move through the year in 3-month swoops! As you read this it will be the end of June: in the Northern Hemisphere we will have passed mid-summer's day with the nights starting to creep slowly up on the days again, and we are of course half-way through 2016. Tempus fugit indeed. As for the weather, as I write this our rainy season is already dampening spirits but keeping the farmers happy in the south of Japan, but by the time you actually read it we will all be “enjoying” the rain. The rain is not just for the farmers but also for our reservoirs, and we count ourselves lucky we are not in the same state of drought as other areas in the world are suffering from right now.

Well, a drought is one thing that Laser Therapy is not suffering from, for which I am very grateful. The reason for the rather strange title for this Editorial is the ever-increasing number of papers reaching the Editorial Office from the dental field. This has reached such a number that I have asked Professor Kenji Yoshida from the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, School of Dentistry, Aichi Gakuin University in Nagoya, Japan, to join our ranks as Co-Editor, Dentistry. He will be leading an international team of laser dental experts who will help us deal with the growing tide of dental articles, and on behalf of our Editorial Team, I am really delighted that Prof Yoshida has accepted the post. You will therefore see his name added to the list of journal Co-editors from this issue onwards.

World Federation for Laser Dentistry

While I am still “getting my teeth” into the subject of dentistry, I am really happy to announce that the World Federation for Laser Dentistry, WFLD, will be holding its 15th Annual Congress here in Japan this year, on July 17th and 18th in Nagoya under the host Presidency of Prof Yoshida. The meeting will be held concurrently with the 28th meeting of the Japan Society for Laser Dentistry (JSLD). You might ask why this is only the 15th WFLD meeting, whereas it’s the 28th JSLD congress: the answer is simple. The WFLD evolved from the International Society for Laser Dentistry, which actually held its first meeting in Tokyo in 1988, so the WFLD is in fact coming home to Japan this year. The theme of the 15th WFLD is “Light to Brighten the Future”, and of course as you all know, one of my favourite concepts is Light and Life. I am looking forward very much to attending this meeting, as I have been invited to attend and present on some of my milestones in my travels through the world of laser surgery and medicine.

Asian Pacific Association for Laser Medicine and Surgery (APALMS)

The 15th Congress of the APALMS will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Saturday and Sunday, September 17th and 18th, with a precongress workshop being held on Friday the 16th. The meeting will be held together with the 7th National Congress of the Indonesian Society for Laser Medicine, and the venue will be the Hotel Borodubur in Jakarta, within easy walking distance of many of Jakarta’s “must see” places. The Congress President, Professor Abraham Arimuko, promises us a full programme, with the key speaker slots already filled. The range of topics is large, and this means a varied and interesting programme. You can catch up with the APALMS online at their URL, www.apalms2016.org. We had hoped to hold an International Laser Licencing System (ILLiS) Initiative course at the meeting, but because of time constraints this was not possible. However, the one-day Workshop plans to teach both a basic and advanced laser course, so please visit the website for further details of how to register for both the Workshop and the Congress.

Japan Society for Laser Reproduction (JaSLaR)

The 2016 JaSLaR meeting was successfully held on the
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available at www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/isism

13th of March of this year, with a total of 11 presentations. Readers will remember that we published the 2015 JaSLaR abstracts in Volume 24 of the journal. JaSLaR is another of the societies already under the Laser Therapy umbrella. The JaSLaR Board Members agreed at their meeting to ask us to make this an annual occurrence, so the next issue of the journal will proudly publish the 2016 meeting abstracts. Japan is unique, and well ahead of the curve by being the only country to have founded an official society to foster and champion the use of the laser in reproductive medicine. The author was asked to present an e-Poster at this year’s meeting of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS). A similar request was also received from the Indian Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine, showing that interest in the use of the laser in reproductive medicine is beginning to spread overseas.

Japan Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine

The Board of the JSLSM has approved the selection of carefully chosen papers, published in Japanese in their own journal, for translation and publication in English in Laser Therapy. This has also swollen the number of papers arriving at the Editorial Office, and I am fully in agreement with this arrangement. It allows publication in English of important advances in laser surgery and medicine which would otherwise be read only by Japanese speakers, thus limiting the dissemination of knowledge, something we in Laser Therapy are very passionate about.

End Notes

As I have written before, “Summer is icumin in” (“Summer has arrived”, a poem in Old English) … and today that is definitely so here in Tokyo with a lovely sunny day, clear blue skies, but none of the humidity that will descend like a wet blanket once our tsuyu (rainy season) has passed. Here is a little bit of trivia. The meaning of tsuyu is literally “plum rain”, taking its name from the time when the plums ripen on the trees. Fans of the delicious Japanese plum wine, umeshu, will know that we don’t actually wait for these plums to ripen, because they make the best plum wine when they are green (and, incidentally, completely inedible). The metamorphosis from inedible, bitter, hard green plums to soft golden brown juicy fruit gently suspended in the golden-yellow umeshu, laden with the alcohol they have been pickled in, is a wonderful thing to see (and taste). For those of you in the Antipodes i.e. the Southern Hemisphere, it must now be cooling down pleasantly after your hot summer. But, dear readers, wherever you are, no matter what the weather, please set aside some time to write down your clinical or basic trials, or your treatment experience, in the form of a submission to Laser Therapy!

Please remember that the scope of the journal has dramatically expanded from being dedicated to LLLT and photobiomodulation as we have more surgically-related associations now on our roster of journals. Also, as I wrote before, we will in addition consider papers on non-laser- and non-light-related topics, because the field of energy-based medicine is fast expanding, and we should learn about it. Don’t forget that the articles in all past issues can be read as free full text PDF downloads, and even printed out, when they are over 6 months from publication. Simply visit https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/isism, enter your search item which could be an author or keywords, or a combination of both, and your search results will be swiftly displayed. Although I wrote earlier of all the papers we are receiving now, please don’t stop sending in your papers! The more papers we have to choose from, the higher the quality of the journal. The journal cannot exist without your input, and it benefits all of us, especially as all articles published are now listed in PubMed Central and are searchable online.

However, perhaps even more important than getting your paper published in a PubMed-listed journal, you should remember that you now have two chances to win a valuable prize for your article: if you are under 40, you could be eligible for the Ming-Chien Kao Award (open only to authors under 40 year of age); and of course our existing and extremely valuable Ohshiro-Laser Therapy Best / Good Paper Awards are available for all articles published in this volume 25 of the journal, irrespective of the age of the author. You have 6 months left … “you’ve gotta be in it to win it” … get writing!

Tokyo, June 2016

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