Finally meeting again

Perhaps the difficulties and learning experiences that COVID-19 gave us globally, as medical professionals and as humanity, provided this meeting a special flavor and invaluable richness. In addition to the above, the great effort and careful attention to detail of the organizing committee, the support of the sponsors, and all the hard work of the people involved yielded excellent results.

The conferences started on Friday, June 16th 2023

During the morning of this day, the conferences in room 1 were oriented to an update on acne and rosacea, while in room 2 the topic was skin rejuvenation, and in room 3 the discussion was related to the principal understanding of lasers and laser safety, reminding us that before a good result, the indispensable requirement is “Primum non nocere” (first do no harm). Therefore, avoiding complications when using a laser is vital. The professors in this round of topics were: Penny Smalley (from USA), Ni Putu Ary Widhyasti Bandem, Andreas Widiansyah and Ni Putu Susari Widianingsih.

Afterward, the plenary sessions equally interesting and enriching were presented by the professors: M. Yulianto Listiawan, Irma Bernadette, and Syarief Hidayat.

Key words: ISLSM congress 2023; Bali; Indonesia; laser surgery and medicine.
Following the plenary sessions, the memorial lecture was particularly moving because it allowed us to learn or remember the story of the pioneer in laser research and development in Indonesia, Dr. Peter Hasan, his journey of learning from Dr. Kaplan in Israel, and the invaluable legacy of both amazing devoted physicians; letting us understand the dreams, desires, challenges, difficulties, achievements, and scope that have preceded to all of us interested in the field of laser discoveries. This memorial conference was given by the incoming president and Chairman of the 3rd ISCoD and ISLSM Congress 2023, Dr. Abraham Arimuko.

The inauguration ceremony was then held, starting with the gift of traditional Balinese dance and after that, it was quite exciting to see that Professor Chen-Jen Chang MD Ph.D. FACS, as president of the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM) handed over his position to the next president, precisely the previous speaker, Dr. Arimuko (Figure 1), and subsequently all the personalities of the field worldwide gathered on stage to start the event, all exuding charisma and good energy (Figure 2).

Following the inauguration, lunch, and booth visiting took place allowing every attendee to appreciate state-of-the-art devices, medicines, and medical resources.

The afternoon conferences in room 1 were related to aging skin (and management), in room 2 the main topics were acne/scars and non-invasive technologies for improving appearance, while room 3 was fully dedicated to ISLSM with superb speakers, which gave the event unparalleled enhancement, promoting discussion and exchange around very interesting topics. These conferences were presented by professors: Uddhav Patil and Sharon Rau (from India), Leonardo Longo (from Italy), Chao-Kai, Chang (from Taiwan), Elyas Aditya Pradana, Niko Azhari Hidayat and Nury Nusdwinuringtyas.

Thus, after the final round of questions from the panel, the first day of conferences ended. However, another true finishing touch was given with a delicious dinner that the organizers orchestrated for the professors (Figure 3).
The second day of conferences was Saturday, June 17th 2023

This was perhaps the most exciting day for those presenting their free papers. With that goal in mind, there was an earlier start at 7:00 a.m. that allowed the oral presentation of 33 research projects and case reports distributed among the three conference rooms. All participants introduced interesting, high-quality works challenging the jury board to select the three winners of the areas corresponding to dermatology and laser therapy.

On this second day of conferences, the topic discussed in room 1 was the latest aesthetic news in Asia, in room 2 the discussion was centered around the recent updates in radiofrequency, and room 3 was dedicated to laser by professors: Uddhav Patil (from India), Kyung Sik Min (from Korea) and Natalia Wahyudi.

The Plenary sessions were extremely interesting, with a clear dual perspective oriented both to the past of laser research and to the most innovative and promising topics of the coming times like Artificial Intelligence and Mixed Reality those lectures were presented by the International Professors: Woraphong Manuskiatti, Rungsima Wani-phakdeedecha and Narong Nimsakul (from Thailand) and Cheng-Jen Chang and Ming-Chien Kao (from Taiwan).

After the plenary lectures, the results from the free paper contest were announced, presenting award certificates to all the winners and for those victorious in the dermatology area the opportunity to publish their project.
in the Laser Therapy Journal while for those successful in the laser research there was a scholarship supported by professor Ming-Chien Kao as president of the Laser Education and Research Foundation (Figure 4).

That day, the afternoon topics in room 1 were about skin quality and rejuvenation; in room 2 were focused on pigmentation, facial augmentation, and post-laser treatments; finally, in room 3 the conferences were oriented to the interesting topic of laser in dentistry by the professors: B. Krisna Rau, Anshuman Ahuja and Upasana Sethi Ahuja (from India), Carlo Fornaini (from Italy) and Irwansyah Manurung. That was how the second day of successful learning finished having sparked intriguing debates and beneficial exchanges of perspectives.

But the organizers surpassed themselves, and that same night prepared the most amazing gala dinner, they even arranged traditional outfits for all the participants, not to mention tasty food, traditional Balinese dances/performances, wonderful singers, a birthday cake, and also modern dance, generating tons of smiles and joyful memories (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Professor Ming-Chien Kao presenting one of the prizes of best paper award in the laser research field.

Figure 5. Extraordinary Gala Dinner after the second day of conferences (everybody wearing traditional Balinese outfit).
The third day of the event was Sunday, June 18th 2023

That day, the program was focused on dermatology workshops (specifically prepared for medical specialists and residents with diverse cosmetic topics) and teaching classes (open for general practitioners, dentists, and other specialties) both were fruitfully accomplished and with the end of these activities came also the end of the meeting generating a heartfelt farewell enriched by knowledge and experiences.

The Gala Dinner was perfectly managed by the Organizing Committee: the location was suggestive, all the participants were provided with traditional Balinese clothes, a large selection of local food was proposed and the presence of singers and dancers who interacted with all Indonesian and international people made the atmosphere magic and exciting (Figure 6).

Just outside the Conference, the ISLMS and APALMS Executive Board meeting was held, under the guidance of Prof. Arimuko, President of ISLMS, and Prof. Pichansak, President of APALMS: it was decided to celebrate the next APALMS Congress in Taipei in 2024 and the next ISLMS, joint with Laserflorence, in Florence in 2015.

It was also elected, as ISLMS President for 2015-2017, prof. Carlo Fornaini.

Undoubtedly Bali is the island of the Gods, where everything surprises favorably.

All the gratitude to our hosts.

See you in Italy dear ISLSM family.

Figure 6. Balinese dancers at gala dinner.

References

1. Al-Tawfiq JA, Temsah MH. Perspective on the challenges of COVID-19 facing healthcare workers. Infection 2023; 51:541-4
