Digital Dentistry



Last year in an editorial, which appeared in this journal, the question was raised about which direction future research will proceed and one of the answers was 'digital dentistry'. One year on, there is no question that digital dentistry is one of the main topics of many meetings, running all over the world. However, there is still a lack of scientific evidence that the hundreds of digital devices available on the market represent a real benefit for clinicians and their patients.

In particular, in the field of implantology, new hardware and software has totally changed the way we acquire information, make a treatment plan, perform the surgery and the prosthesis and mainly, how we communicate with the team and patients. These new processes allow us to talk about a completely new way of approaching implant treatments, which could be named "Full Digital Implantology".

Another announcement appeared in that editorial: the imminent formation of a new scientific society named Digital Dentistry Society (DDS), whose main objective was to favour scientific progress and the applicative development of rehabilitation treatment in dentistry, with the use of digital technology.

One year on, since the DDS (digital-dentistry.org) was established, it has grown fast and information

about its existence has been disseminated all over the world. The distinctiveness of its mission allowed the Society to engage with some of the most keynote researchers and clinicians and it is now open to anybody, not only dentists, who are in some way connected to digital procedures in dentistry.

DDS has already organised scientific meetings and training courses in different countries, in cooperation with international public and private organisations in the field of digital technology.

The DDS also aims to formulate guidelines to facilitate the practice of professionals and to raise public awareness through the dissemination of scientifically correct information. Sticking to its fundamental ethos, the DDS is organising an important meeting (D20), which will look at the state of the art of digital dentistry. It will be held in September 2016. In this event, 20 of the most well known researchers and clinicians, together with representatives of the industry and the press, will try to define the state of the art of digital technologies in daily dental practice.

The first International DDS meeting is under preparation for 2017.

Dr Giuseppe Luongo President of the Digital Dentistry Society