For its 91st annual congress, the European Orthodontic Society (EOS) returns to Italy for the sixth time. Prof. Miotti, why was Venice chosen as this year’s location, and what does this choice mean to you?

Venice was chosen by my sister Francesca Ada Miotti, professor and head of the Department of Orthodontics at the University of Padua. When she was elected as president of the 2015 EOS congress. Unfortunately, she died in 2013 and I was then chosen to complete her work—although I am a maxillofacial surgeon—as I have continued her work—although I am a maxillofacial surgeon as I have been a member of the EOS for more than 30 years, with a major interest in the treatment of skeletal based malocclusions.

The choice of Venice really means a great deal to me, apart from my being born in the Venetian region, first of all because it was my sister’s choice and the congress will be a tribute to her, but also because my father organised a memorable EOS congress as president in Venice in 1992.

Venice is chosen as this year’s location as oral and maxillofacial surgery is the main focus of the 91st congress, and the main aim of the congress in achieving this overall aim? The annual EOS congress is one of the main opportunities for orthodontists from all around the world to meet and discuss relevant themes, keep up to date, and get to know or become friends with colleagues from faraway countries. The benefit for the public is obvious, as orthodontic knowledge and new discoveries or results become widespread.

What would you describe as the main focus of the 91st congress, and what topics will be discussed?

Main topics are early or late treatment and integrated orthodontic care. The two last topics are really relevant for public and community health care in any national or regional health system. The first one is particularly useful to decide what kind of treatment should be delivered and when, and for example during growth or at the end of it. The second aims to define collaborative pathways between different specialties, such as oral and maxillofacial surgery, paediatrics, ENT surgery, and so on.

Aside from the scientific programme, what can participants look forward to in Venice?

Venice does not need any introduction and is one of the cities to visit in the world. The whole lagoon is full of art and history, and a few days will certainly not be enough, but could be a starting point for another visit.

The social programme of the congress is very rich, starting with the opening reception at the grand Palazzo del Cinema, each year home to the annual Venice Film Festival, followed by a buffet supper around the exhibitors’ stands at the Palazzo del Cinema, built in the 1930s.

There will also be the President’s Reception at the beautiful Hotel Excelsior with terraces overlooking the world-renowned Lido di Venezia beach. The impressive hotel was built in the early 1900s and appeared in famous films.

The gala dinner will be held at the Scuola Grande di San Giovanni Evangelista, a wonderful palace built in the 13th century containing precious paintings of Jacopo Palma il Giovane, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo and Jacopo Tintoretto.

Could you please describe the current situation regarding orthodontics in Europe? Which factors have had the most influence over the past several years?

Orthodontics in Europe is a well-defined specialty of dental surgery. The development of new materials and technologies over the past several years has greatly improved and to some extent shortened orthodontic treatments. Equally important are studies on growth and tooth movement that are coming out with new findings. Congresses like EOS 2015 in Venice are an effective way to focus and share knowledge in this field from all points of view, epidemiological, experimental, clinical, etc.

The aim of the EOS is to advance all aspects of orthodontics for public benefit. Apart from organising a major congress each year in a different European nation, with up to 2,000 or more participants, the EOS organises courses and gives a range of important grants and awards, supporting research and fellowships to allow junior researchers to visit research departments. By doing this, the EOS directly influences the development of orthodontics in Europe, if not all over the world.

Thank you very much.