Welcome to buzzing Macau

“This congress will be the perfect bridge”

An interview with Dr Carlos Brito Augusto, chairman of the APDC organising committee

For its 39th edition, the Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC) is being hosted in one of the most diverse and contrasting cities in the world. Rich in culture and history, the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China is one of the densest urban settlements in the world.

First discovered by Chinese inhabitants seeking refuge from invading Mongols in the Qin dynasty, the area was settled by the Portuguese in the sixteenth century. With Portuguese administration ending in 1999, Macau was both the first and last European colony in China. Apart from its diverse history, which is reflected in its exceptional architecture and special culinary traditions, Macau is known for its status as the supermodern “Las Vegas of the East”.

After the Hong Kong event in 2016, this year’s 39th Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC) takes place only a ferry ride away in fascinating Macau. While there is certainly a great deal to see and do in Asia’s well-known gambling Mecca, the scientific programme is equally full of highlights. Today international had the opportunity to speak with organising committee chairperson Dr Carlos Brito Augusto about specialties in focus and progression opportunities in the region’s dental market.

This year’s theme is “Breakthrough for excellence in dentistry”. How is the topic reflected in the congress programme?

This year, the scientific programme is different from that of other years. We have provided longer time slots, in some cases full days, in the morning or afternoon sessions, allowing the speakers to fully cover each topic. In addition, the scientific programme addresses practical issues and the workshops will give attendees the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

What topics or specialities are in focus this year?

Orthodontic treatment is becoming more popular. Usually at this kind of congress, one would see a maximum of two orthodontic speakers, but this year, a number of presenters will be addressing orthodontic treatment. We requested all of them that their topic be useful in daily practice.

Are there any firsts being introduced at this year’s event?

It is not very common that a speaker will have a full day lecture as is the case for Prof. João Caramelo presentation. In this event, we believe this is the first time that two speakers will be discussing interdisciplinary treatment on the same day. (Editorial note: On Tuesday, Dr Shih-Jung Lin will hold the lecture “The beauty of interdisciplinary treatment”, Dr Johnny Liao Juang-Lin will talk about “Interdisciplinary approaches in patients oriented excellence”). Another first is the Chinese room, where lectures will be held in Mandarin.

From a regional perspective, what trends are dominating Asia-Pacific right now?

Asia-Pacific is a growing market. Every day patients are demanding more from us! I believe aesthetics and orthodontic treatment—especially in visible areas—and immediate implant courses will be dominating dentistry in the coming years.

Could you tell us something about the Laser Open Forum? What can attendees expect?

By definition, “open forum” implies an open exchange of ideas and information on a topic in a public gathering hosted by a chairperson. In the APDC Laser Open Forum, a panel of international and local laser experts and congress attendees will engage in an open exchange of knowledge and experience regarding the use of lasers in clinical dental procedures. The forum, to be held in both Mandarin and English, will take the form of questions and answers and be moderated by a chairperson.

This is an excellent opportunity for attendees to enrich their understanding and knowledge of the use of lasers in dentistry through direct face-to-face or voice-to-voice interactive learning and discussion. Laser as a treatment modality is indicated in all dental disciplines, from diagnosis to treatment, including caries prevention; periodontal management; paedodontic; orthodontic, endodontic and implantology treatment, in the case of implants, to take care of patients with cancer. Furthermore, laser use in orthodontics treat facial aesthetics and their role in orthodontic and orthopedics.

therapy or surgery, to treat anything from facial aesthetics to snoring and in the management of cancer patients—the list is endless. Laser treatment offers patients a holistic modality: non-invasive, bacteria reducing, promoting healing, comfortable and requiring less use of local anaesthetic, as well as enhancing treatment outcome and increasing patient attendance to allow patient education for early intervention and prevention.

What is important when planning an event in such a special location as Macau?

Visitors can experience the two faces of Macau—the UNESCO-listed historical centre, where Mediterranean architecture meets Chinese heritage, vs the party destination, with myriad luxury hotels and opulent casinos offering entertainment around the clock—in the after hours of the congress and even during the event. The congress venue, the Venetian Macao hotel and casino resort, reopened in 2007 and owned by the American Las Vegas Sands company; the Venetian Macao is the largest casino in the world and the largest single-structure hotel building in Asia. This resort has been designed exclusively for the requirements of events and conferences and provides more than 75,000 m² of exhibition space—most definitely the perfect backdrop for a very memorable edition of APDC.

What networking opportunities are not to be missed this year?

China is a large and new market. Many products from China are trying to gain access to international markets, while many international products are seeking to enter into the great Chinese market. I believe this congress will be the perfect bridge.

Thank you very much for the interview.