

June 17, 2023

A Message from the President of the WFLD

The World Federation for Laser Dentistry (WFLD) is a non-profit organization committed to the advancement and practice of Laser Dentistry. It is the most reputable and established, leading international dental laser organization, supporting the scientific research, clinical application, and education of lasers in dentistry.

The WFLD began as the International Society for Laser Dentistry (ISLD). In 1988, the late Professor Hajime Yamamoto successfully organized the initial International Congress on Lasers in Dentistry in Tokyo, Japan; the first of what would continue as biennial ISLD congresses. In 2006, the ISLD was expanded to create five International Divisions and was renamed the WFLD, with WFLD congresses continuously and successfully being held since.

Since 1991, I have been working at Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Department of Periodontology as a periodontist actively engaged in laser research these 30-plus years. I have been fortunate to be able to attend nearly all ISLD and then WFLD congresses since the 3rd Salt Lake City congress in 1992. Participation in these meetings has provided both my students and me with many important experiences including making presentations as well as even occasionally receiving awards. Through its diverse professional opportunities, the ISLD/WFLD has contributed to the development of our careers as researchers in laser dentistry.


Looking over the past, at the 8th Yokohama congress in 2002, I served as General Secretary under the Chairman (and my mentor), Professor Isao Ishikawa. At the 16th Nagoya congress in 2016, I worked for the Chairman, Professor Kenji Yoshida. Later, to our great loss, Professor Yoshida suddenly passed away in 2019 and I assumed his roll on the Executive Board as the representative from Japan. Through these incredible experiences, I have come to truly appreciate

the significant contributions these great leaders from Japan; the late Professor Yamamoto, Professor Ishikawa, and the late Professor Yoshida, have made in guiding me in laser dentistry and in the ISLD/WFLD.

At the General Assembly meeting on June 10, 2023, I was elected President of the WFLD with the kind support of the President, Professor Toni Zeinoun; the General Secretary, Professor Aldo Brugnera; the Chairman of International Relations and Internal Legal Affairs, Professor Samir Nammour; as well as the other Board members. As I assume this presidency, I extend my deepest appreciation to all the Board members for their ongoing tireless efforts and boundless contributions. As much as I consider this a great honor, I also sense the immense responsibility I undertake to be successful in this very important position in service to the WFLD. I will take inspiration and strength from the amazing spirit exemplified by the successive great WFLD past Presidents as I put forth my best efforts to further develop this important organization.

Finally, I would like to ask each of you; university researchers and educators, clinicians, laser societies, and laser companies, for your kind, thoughtful support and your ongoing contributions of time, talent, and resources to the WFLD. Your support and collaboration are essential as we strive to effect enhanced laser science and therapy in dentistry, allowing patients throughout the world to realize access to, and receive the benefits of, continued advances in dental laser treatment.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akira Aoki', written in a cursive style.

Akira AOKI, DDS, PhD

President, WFLD