

Leading teams: Predictable esthetics through interdisciplinary collaboration

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The people involved in the organization and running of the scientific program (from left to right): Prof Aris Petros Tripodakis (IJED Supplement Co-Editor), Patrick Rutten, MDT (speaker), Dr Telmo Iceta (speaker), Prof Irena Sailer (Scientific Chairwoman), Dr Tidu Mankoo (speaker), Dr Gerd Koerner (moderator), Luc Rutten, MDT (speaker), Dr Massimo Fuzzi (moderator), Nicola Pietrobon, MDT (moderator), Dr Stefano Gracis (IJED Supplement Co-Editor). Missing: Dr David De Franco (moderator).

“Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”

Michael Jordan

Providing dental care by a sole practitioner can be draining and isolating for that individual. Many of the issues faced by clinicians when working alone can be solved more comprehensively when working within an intentionally interdisciplinary model. Camaraderie and teamwork are brought about as various specialists, together with dental technologists, work toward a common goal. In this process, team members share common end goals in assessing and evaluating the patient’s biologic, functional, and esthetic needs. This

is accomplished through interdependent collaboration, open communication, and shared decision making.

Esthetic Dentistry applied through a well-coordinated teamwork platform not only provides the patient with an ultimately excellent outcome, but affords the opportunity for team members to benefit from each other’s expertise and attain personal clinical and scientific enhancement. Pursuing excellence in teamwork is not only about what is acquired, but beyond this, it is about what the team members become in the process of this acquisition.

An interdisciplinary healthcare team needs structure, not necessarily based on hierarchy. Yet, someone needs to play the role of “director” to guide, support,



The EAED Active and Life Members who participated in the EAED Closed Meeting in Corfu, September 2022.

and facilitate discussions and relationships between members who play an equal role. The sequence of the treatment modalities as well as the interchange among the various clinical and laboratory stages should be well coordinated and monitored by the “director.” Ideally, this person should be knowledgeable in all disciplines, ensure the proper progression of the therapy, carry out the necessary reevaluations, and coordinate the communication among all the team members. Most importantly, the “director” would also be presented to patients as the one person with whom they would develop and maintain a direct patient-doctor relationship throughout the entire treatment; the person with whom they would interact and to whom they would turn during the course of their extensive and prolonged complex oral rehabilitation.

The mission of the European Academy of Esthetic Dentistry is to promote the pursuit of excellence in dental esthetics by fostering interdisciplinary communication. Hence, most appropriately, the subject of “Leading Teams – Interdisciplinary Collaboration” introduced by Dr Irena Sailer, the Scientific Chairwoman of the 2022 EAED Active Members’ Meeting in Corfu, as illustrated by the team led by Dr Tidu Mankoo, allowed for a very valuable and unique vision of how an expert multidisciplinary team collaborates in pursuing excellence in Esthetic Dentistry.

Clinical and laboratory procedures performed by a group of various clinicians and dental technologists were presented. The well-coordinated interplay of different specialists and the controlled timing of the respective treatment sequence was shown, also enhanced by cutting-edge dental technology procedures. Correspondingly, the meeting was chaired by moderators specializing in similar domains, who initially defined the meeting’s specific perspectives and drew the ultimate conclusions at the end.

The interaction that was generated among the Faculty and the EAED Members within a scientific meeting thus organized enhanced the origination of new ideas broadly discussed among the participants. Specialty boundaries were brought down and people from various disciplines learned from each other. Advances presented and discussed at the 2022 EAED Active Members’ Meeting in Corfu, recorded within the meeting’s proceedings, produced an academic document worth publishing, and this is what you are now reading in this Supplement issue of the International Journal of Esthetic Dentistry.

Aris Petros Tripodakis and
Stefano Gracis
IJED Supplement Co-Editors

Why the leaf of a rubber tree on the cover?

Plants have developed a variety of ways to heal wounds throughout their evolutionary history. In the case of the rubber tree, injuries and cracks are sealed by curing the exuding lactic sap. The principle of rapid wound sealing by repair cells modeled on nature has been transferred to a bionic foam coating for pneumatic systems such

as inflatable boats. Self-repairing materials can significantly extend the service life of technical products. They thus also contribute to resource conservation and sustainability.

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