

80th Congress of the European Orthodontic Society, Aarhus, Denmark



Birte Melsen

Reports of the EOS Congress normally start with a comment about the weather, but suffice to say that it was very mixed—sunny and hot, rainy and cold (what can one expect in the northern hemisphere in June)! However, this did not detract from the very successful meeting organized by our President, Professor Birte Melsen. More than 1000 delegates attended the Conference, including 330 postgraduates.

The pre-Congress course was given by a number of well-known speakers on 'The painful bite' and the postgraduate course by Giorgio Fiorelli and Lysle Johnston on 'Computerized orthodontic treatment planning and mechanics design' and 'Round up the usual suspects: a discussion of temporary orthodontic controversies', respectively.

The EBO examination was held at the Dental School, University of Aarhus, and the following were accepted as Board Members: Francesco Garino, Michele Giaretta, Enrique Fernandez Alcazar, Renato Tagliaferri and Ambra Michelotti.

The Forum of National Orthodontic Societies took place on Monday 7 June, at which representatives from a number of national societies were present. Accreditation in different European countries and the questionnaire on this topic that had recently been distributed by EFOSA were discussed. The roles of the EOS, EFOSA and FEO and the provisional 'heads of agreement' were considered. As there was disagreement between EFOSA and FEO concerning affiliation, these were not ratified and the two societies concerned will have further discussions.

Following a service and organ recital in Aarhus Cathedral, the official opening of the Congress took place at the Concert Hall, where we watched a performance by the Peter Schaufuss Ballet Company. Professor Birte Prahl-Andersen then gave the Sheldon Friel Memorial Lecture on 'Craniofacial malformations: principles and management', which was followed by the W. J. B. Houston Memorial Lectures. The winner was Karen Juggins of the UK for her research on 'Perceived need for orthognathic treatment'. We then made our way to the City Hall, where a buffet was provided by the Mayor of Aarhus on behalf of the city.

The scientific programme opened on Tuesday on the topic of 'Aesthetics'. Caroline Wilkinson of the UK, who lectures in the field of facial anthropology, gave an outstanding keynote lecture on 'The relationship between the hard and soft tissues of the face' and we were privileged to see the forensic work that she has undertaken. Barry Grayson opened the afternoon session with a keynote address on 'Nasoalveolar moulding and pre-surgical columella elongation in unilateral and bilateral clefts of the lip and palate' and the keynote speaker for the topic of 'Biomechanics' was Christoph Bourauel. In the evening the postgraduate disco took place on a boat moored in the harbour. Although I was not invited to attend, it is clear from various reports that this was an outstanding success, with some students (and older delegates) still dancing at 04.00 the next day.

The keynotes speakers for the topic of 'Biology' on Wednesday were Efthimia Basdra and Carine Carels. The posters on display throughout the Congress demonstrated the wide variety of research being undertaken and the session in the afternoon allowed the presenters to speak with other delegates. The high quality of the posters made judging the EOS awards difficult, but the three awards were given to: Anne Karsten (Belgium), Pamela Husmann (Germany) and Anestis

Mavropoulos (Switzerland). The award for the Houston Research Poster was given to Marie-Elizabeth Cooke of the UK. The President's reception on Wednesday evening took place in Den Gamle By (The Old Town). This is a living and breathing museum housing 75 historical buildings, unique exhibits, houses, shops and workshops. Although the weather was inclement, this turned out to be a most enjoyable event.

The topic of 'Biology' continued on Thursday, with keynote addresses by Jeremy Mao on 'Tissue engineering in relation to orthodontic treatment' and Suresh Rattan on 'Biology of ageing and its modulation'—a subject in which we all have a vested interest! Marcel Korn (who also gave the post-Congress course on 'Mandibular and midface distraction') opened the Free Topic session with a talk on 'Alternative orthodontics'. During the lectures there was a large attendance, both in the lecture theatre and also in the small halls where the proceedings were relayed. The gala dinner on Thursday evening was held at Stakladen, a beautiful venue in Aarhus. During dinner we listened to music performed by some young artists, including a very close friend of the President. As usual, after dinner, we danced until late. Although many EOS members have a great deal of dancing experience, in the words of those other well-known Scandinavians, Birte Melsen proved to be 'the dancing queen'. At the end of the evening, Professor Melsen passed the badge of office to Professor Anne-Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman who will hold the 81st EOS Congress in Amsterdam, from the 3–7 June 2005.

The Congress Outing on Friday was to Himmelbjerget (The Sky Mountain), which is a staggering 184 m high. Due to the poor weather, part of the Silver Mill competition was held inside. In the first event, the competitors were asked to stand on a blanket and to turn it without touching it with their hands—footwork was the only way to get the job done. Wire bending, under the supervision of Lee Graber, was the final test: the competitors had to bend a closing loop on their backs. The Dutch team demonstrated their mastery of this technique and won the Silver Mill competition. The sun then decided to shine and after a very impressive steamboat trip we arrived at a beautiful modern design museum, where we spent the rest of the day in a delightful area. Those who participated will look back to a great and unforgettable outing.

We are extremely grateful to Professor Melsen and her organizing committee for arranging an excellent congress. Despite her misgiving that the venue would not be sufficiently attractive to delegates, the attendance was very high, which is a personal tribute to her and a reflection of the high esteem in which she is held in the orthodontic community. Memories of the meeting will surely be different from those of other EOS Congresses—the weather could have been better, but the scientific content of the programme was outstanding.

**Abstracts from the meeting are published online at:
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Luc Dermaut

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