
MEETING REPORT

ESE 12th Biennial Congress, Trinity College, Dublin, 15–17 September 2005 – ‘Discover Your Roots’

We all need to know our place in history: where we’ve come from, where we’re going to, the lessons of experience and investigation. The 12th biennial ESE Congress gave ample opportunity, as friends from 52 countries worldwide gathered at Trinity College, Dublin to share endodontically, socially, philosophically and genealogically – discovering their roots!

Early arrivals were treated to an impressive array of pre-congress courses, delivered by international authorities, and spanning a range of topics from differential pain diagnosis (Jeff Okeson), through operative NiTi instrumentation (Cliff Ruddle) and Resilon obturation (Martin Trope & Fred Barnett) to microsurgery (Peter Velvart) and the essential skills of analysing research reports (Rob Newcombe); a session for everyone!

Events for the record-breaking 1200+ delegates commenced on a ‘grand, soft morning’ (yes, it was raining, but gentle, fine rain), to the music and movement of ‘Riverdance’, combining Ireland’s proud heritage, with its confident, optimistic present and future.



Figure 1. Brendan Kennelly, Trinity Professor of Modern Literature, welcomes delegates with warmth and humour on a ‘grand, soft morning’.

The heart-felt welcomes of Lynda Elliott (ESE President), Maria Jennings (Chair of the organizing committee) and Johanna Glennon (Irish Endodontic Society President) were echoed in acapella song from Ceiliradh (celebration), before Brendan Kennelly took the podium (Fig. 1). Trinity Professor of Modern Literature, poet and joyous raconteur, he shared warmth of wit in narrative and verse, with affectionate reflections on life in general and Dublin in particular, with its pleasures and peculiarities.

Charmed and delighted, delegates were then off, spoiled for choice by a parallel programme in two theatres, oral presentations on freely chosen subjects in another and thematic research/clinical poster presentations in adjacent rooms.

From the implant-endo debate, to stem-cell biology and vital pulp therapies; from optimized NiTi shaping to pain diagnosis and management, day one of the scientific programme could not fail to satisfy.

A little light exercise was called for, and what better than a short stroll to Dublin Castle for a welcoming drink and pre-dinner nibbles (Fig. 2). But there was also serious business, with the Wladimir Adlivankine Research prize awarded to Dr P Thomson (Birmingham, England) for his work on 'In vitro Characterization of the Dentinogenic Potential of Mineral Trioxide Aggregate', and the Hans Genet Award for an outstanding young academic endodontist to Dr Thomas Waltimo, University of Oslo, Norway. Congratulations to them both and to Bill Saunders and Edinburgh, Scotland as newly announced hosts for the 2009 Congress. Conor McLister, Queen's University, Belfast was the recipient of the 5th IES Undergraduate Essay prize.

Friday awakened, warm and pleasant, as delegates took the morning air, strolling from their nearby hotels for another feast of fellowship and science. The Gunnar Bergenholtz Symposium on treatment resistant infections provided a strong draw, with presentations moderated by Markus Haapasalo on the limitations of *in vitro* microbiological research, the clinical realities of *E. faecalis* and extra-radicular infections and novel approaches to their management. The main parallel session developed understanding on physical and clinical testing of our materials before exploring some of the evidence on Resilon. It was then over to Linda Peters to address the core issue of biofilms and their management. The change of emphasis from the mechanistic to the biological was refreshing; how simplistic our investigations have often been, and how much work is needed to understand the fundamentals of the infections we strive to manage.

Theatres were packed to capacity; some might say a victim of the meeting's success, and some of those unable to claim seats early were catered for by simultaneous transmission in satellite rooms. For the bright young researchers



Figure 2. Friends from all over the world reunited.

and clinician-scientists, interest may have been disappointingly low as the poster sessions continued out of sight of the main congress areas. Eighty-six investigations in the areas of microbiology, canal preparation, obturation, materials science, pathology, cytotoxicity/biocompatibility and clinical science reflected well on endodontics and its serious endeavours to strengthen its evidence base. For future meetings, we must embrace and showcase our researchers more fully – we must not forget our roots!

After coffee and a light lunch on Trinity Green, the tempo picked up once again, with fascinating insights on our gambling behaviours in retreatment decision-making, and practical methods of dismantling restorations, dealing with complexities and retrieving fractured instruments. Nearby, the programme of 50 freely chosen oral presentations and 59 clinical posters continued to demonstrate the many facets of endodontology. These were practical sessions for the thinking clinician, and underpinned by rich experience and clinical science.

Always the night for local culture, Friday celebrations were hosted in the historic surroundings of Trinity College dining room. A splendidly restored, galleried hall of natural wood and character, this was an evening of music, mirth and merriment. Themed areas accommodated all moods from quiet and reflective airs and melodies to hard-shoe traditional dancing and song. The inevitable ceilí went on late into the evening with a smile on every face; an evening to remember with fondness (Fig. 3).

For those who still had a spring in their step and whose hunger for knowledge was still unsatisfied, Saturday provided further opportunities, to be wowed by the potential of cone-beam tomography in diagnosis and decision-making (you would never have seen those cracks or that antral perforation) or to get up to speed with trauma management in the Leif Tronstad Symposium. Hot on their heels, a view of new imaging techniques in minimally invasive research, the endo/systemic disease debate and the revolution in endodontic microsurgery.

For those with information overload or exhausted from the many business meetings going on in the background, snatched opportunities presented to explore this impressive university city, a chance to inspect original works by Newton or Darwin; to marvel at the ancient Celtic Christian heritage of the Book of Kells or to share the 'craic' in one of Dublin's smoke-free bars.

Faithful supporters of the profession and sponsors of the meeting, the extensive array of trade representatives remained attentive and informative throughout the congress, offering advice, product demonstration and good deals to coffee-drinking delegates. We would also be wrong to neglect the helpful stewards (Fig. 4).

Always ending on a high, the final afternoon offered practical tips on getting the best from your digital camera with Eric Herbranson, manfully fighting the flu to share his wealth of knowledge, and management of the fearful pain patient with Stanley Malamed. It is difficult to imagine a subject area that had not been covered in some breadth and depth, and congratulations are because of Lynda Elliott and her team in orchestrating a highly successful and enjoyable congress (Fig. 5).



Figure 3. Ceili night at Trinity!



Figure 4. Unsung heroes – Trinity Dental students who provided attentive service throughout the congress.



Figure 5. Girl power! Lynda Elliott, Maria Jennings and Joanna Glennon stand still for a moment as the congress reaches full swing.

The time for farewells and the gala dinner came all too soon, and as delegates flocked to the Guinness Storehouse to celebrate with personally drawn pints of 'black velvet', it was time to look forward to Istanbul 2007 and to reflect on a thoroughly worthwhile, well-hosted meeting which had beaten all records and almost been a victim of its own success.

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