With the renewal of 2002 dues, members receive a personal access number, password and sign-in instructions to the members-only portal. Here is a brief overview of the site’s new features for ALD members:

**Discussion Forums & Peer Support**
Post a message on the ALD member forum. Share your laser experiences and questions with your peers!

**Easy Access to Your Very Own Biography**
Access the ALD Member Directory ONLINE and add your personal biography and photo (optional) so patients can easily find out more about you when they search for a laser dentist. Your personal access allows YOU to update your listing and links to your site as often as needed. If you don’t have your own website, this could be your ‘mini-site’ through your ALD membership.

**ONLINE Member Directory**
Need a colleague’s number? Need to refer a patient who is relocating? Access the online directory for quick reference to your ALD colleagues.

**Laser Information Network**
Access the Laser Information Network and find an Academy member who can assist you with your dental laser questions.

**Clinical Case Studies and Research Articles**
Review literature and case studies in all dental laser wavelengths at your convenience.

**Lightwaves**
In addition to receiving your Lightwaves newsletter by mail you can read and print the newest edition and archived issues. Lightwaves is your connection to Academy News.

**Corporate Members and Industry Manufacturers**
Links include company descriptions, contact information and websites of leading laser manufacturers providing easy access to laser devices and new product information.

**ALD’s International Chapters in Canada, Chile, Germany, Israel, Japan and the UK**
The site helps all of us keep connected so easily.

**Press Releases and News**
Keep abreast of information on lasers. This new feature will include the latest developments in laser manufacturing.

**Online Applications for Certification, Conference, Dues Renewal and More**
It’s all about making it easier for you.

**DENTAL PATIENTS: THE GENERAL PUBLIC**
Tell your patients to visit www.laserdentistry.org. The site offers links for parents, teens, teachers, and other consumer groups providing easy access to information on lasers in dentistry.

**Find-A-Dentist**
Anyone can find a dental laser practitioner through our new patient referral service. Find-A-Dentist is an up-to-date database of all current ALD members providing easy access for patients to navigate and seek dental care from a laser practitioner in specific geographic areas.

**ALL DENTAL PROFESSIONALS**
Any dental professional can easily learn about lasers in dentistry with efficient point and click links to educational materials. Highlights follow:

**Clinical Case Studies, Laser Research Articles and Laser Courses**
Learn about upcoming laser courses. We strive to continually update our online library.

**ALD Laser Certification Program**
Details of the Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education and the ALD’s Laser Certification Program’s four levels of recognition for safe and effective laser use are easily available.

**ALD Conference Registration**
Dental professionals can register for all conference events online and view photos of the previous conference to see what it’s all about!

**Purchase Patient Education Brochures ONLINE**
A general brochure on Lasers in Dentistry, another on Cavity Preparation and a third on Soft Tissue Laser Therapy will be available in January. Members will receive a starter batch and then be able to purchase more through the ALD Products and Services link.

**Academy Membership**
Dental professionals can learn about the Academy of Laser Dentistry and register for membership easily. Refer your colleagues to the website to learn about the Academy.

**Other Site Highlights**
- Academy’s History and Mission
- ALD Structure, Board of Directors and Committees
- Regulatory Affairs
We identified dental professionals as another stakeholder — as professionals concerned to provide quality care to patients. We discussed ALD’s role in offering knowledge and skill in laser technology and supporting the Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education as a vehicle to reach patients by upholding a standard for laser education for practitioners. We discussed the quality of laser technology for dental use and how we can help the interests of dentists to improve the health and well-being of patients. We discussed our role in fostering the use of lasers in dentistry by more dentists worldwide.

What interests of laser manufacturers, researchers, local and national legislative and licensing bodies and other organizations within organized dentistry might ALD advance/preserve and how? And how do we do this dependably and effectively? We identified laser manufacturers as another stakeholder in that if we can have a positive effect on the types of lasers that are manufactured and the level of education provided we can improve the health and well-being of patients. If we positively affect dental laser research and are available to legislative bodies and other organizations within organized dentistry we can improve the health and well-being of patients.

As the ethics committee thought long and hard about these questions we were able to confidently articulate a proposed mission, vision and goals to the Board of Directors.

One question I have not answered is why are YOU a member of the Academy of Laser Dentistry? That’s one question I hope I know the answer to, but more importantly I hope you share our mission and are prepared to be an ambassador for the Academy as you strive to be the best you can be to improve the health and well-being of your patients.

As committee members and the Board of Directors strive to increase the support we provide to members in our effort to serve the public, it’s your input that is as important to the process as the process itself. I urge you to ask yourself, how far are you willing to go to help improve the health and well-being of patients through the proper use of laser technology? You can have a voice through the Academy.

Sincerely,

Gail S. Siminovsky
Executive Director

Behind The Scenes

(Excerpt from Wavelengths summer issue)

Whom do we serve? What is our mission?

When I work with members of the Board of Directors and Committees it is quite easy to see their level of commitment to patient care by using dental lasers. Why do these people serve the Academy untiringly in uncountable volunteer hours? Do we serve, do we lead, or do we lead as servants? Whom do we serve and what is the mission of the Academy of Laser Dentistry? Why are you a member of the Academy? The answers are somewhat interrelated.

We lead as servants. By serving the public good, we lead.1 But why? I trust that each servant, each leader, has his/her own personal reasons, but the common thread is the strong belief that the proper use of lasers in dentistry has a positive effect on patient care.

The question whom do we serve? was the core of a recent ethics committee workshop conducted June 7 and 8 in Chicago. David T. Ozar, PhD, Director of Loyola University of Chicago’s Center for Ethics, helped members of the Academy’s Ethics committee fulfill its directive to review and refine the mission, vision and goals of our organization. This was the first step in the Academy’s 2002-2005 Strategic Planning Process. In order to do this effectively, we first had to identify the groups who are affected by what we do. We had to articulate what we do and why we do it. We had to rank the groups according to who ultimately benefits from what we do. And we had to define the groups that help us fulfill what it is we think we do. All of this information better enabled us to articulate the mission, vision, and goals of the Academy. As the workshop moved into the second day, we were determined to have a refined draft mission statement to present to the Board of Directors who would deliberate and finally articulate it. A rather challenging task.

We discussed the potential interests of patients, dentists, manufacturers, licensing bodies, and regulatory agencies and identified these groups as stakeholders.

What interests of patients might ALD advance/preserve and how? And how do we do this dependably and effectively? We identified patients as the ultimate stakeholder in what we do as an Academy. We discussed the quality of care derived from laser technology and the importance of accurate information about dental laser treatment. We determined that we can improve the health and well-being of patients through the proper use of laser technology.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Academy of Laser Dentistry is an international professional membership association of dental practitioners and supporting organizations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of patients through the proper use of laser technology. The Academy actively supports education and research through its certification programs, publications, meetings and additional activities. The Academy fosters dialogue and seeks to build community among its members and dental organizations, educational institutions, researchers, industry representatives and others who share this mission.

VISION
We envision a time when:
• The Academy of Laser Dentistry is the world’s pre-eminent resource for the use of laser technology in oral healthcare
• The highly skilled use of laser technology in dentistry is routine
• Laser based early diagnosis and interceptive treatment is common in dental practice
• Through these advances dental patients remain comfortable in treatment and willingly seek early care
• Patients preserve natural dentitions and maintain healthy oral tissues.

GOALS
Advocacy
The Academy will function in an educational and advisory role with licensing and regulatory agencies.

Certification
The Academy will continue to develop and implement standardized testing to recognize levels of proficiency in the application of dental laser technology.

Conference
The Academy, through its conferences and meetings, will provide a context for professional dialogue, international participation, presentation, and commercial exhibition.

Education
The Academy will support, co-ordinate, develop and implement the educational goals set forth in the Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education.

Ethics
Through the ongoing work of the Ethics Committee, the Academy will develop a written code of ethics and continue to assist the Board of Directors on organizational ethics and the interpretation of the Mission.

industry
The Academy will encourage and consult with corporate members to support the development and expansion of scientifically based, clinically useful, and commercially sensible laser applications.

Information
The Academy values collaboration with dental organizations, educational institutions, researchers and industry in the interests of improving dental care using laser technology.

Professionalism
At all times, and through all of its publications, traditional and electronic, conferences and all manner of outreach, the Academy will promote the highest standards of professionalism.

Research
The Academy will encourage, promote, and consult with private, academic and corporate researchers to support the expansion and coordination of laser development, its therapeutic uses, and commercially sensible applications.

Ways & Means
The Academy, through it finance committee and consultants, will be responsible and accountable for evaluating and assuring the viability of ALD’s Mission.
San Diego Conference 2002 Reaching New Heights

Conference Highlights

Dr. Harold C. Slavkin, Dean of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry will address the Academy’s 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition March 13-16, 2002 at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines in San Diego, California. One of the world’s leading authorities on craniofacial development and genetic birth defects, Dr. Slavkin will address the general session on Thursday, March 14, 2002, kicking off three days of clinical and research presentations on laser use in dentistry.

General and Scientific Session

Akira Aoki, DDS, PhD, Japan – Comparison Between Er:YAG Laser and Conventional Bur for Bone Ablation: Long-Term Histological Observation of the Healing Process

Paula Jo Casper, RDH, USA – Restoration of Health for Patients With Type II – III Periodontal Disease Using a Diode Laser

Ambrose Chan, BDS (hons), Australia - Subpicosecond Laser Ablation of Dental Enamel

Donald J. Coluzzi, DDS, USA - My Laser Is Better Than Your Laser

Robert A. Convissar, DDS, USA - Erbium Lasers, Esthetics and the Mature Patient

Simon Gallier, BDS, United Kingdom – The Er:YAG Laser in General Practice: A 2.5 Year Report

Alan J. Goldstein, DMD, USA - Laser in General Practice: A 2.5 Year Report

Gabi Kesler, DMD, Israel - Laser Ablation of the Root Surface

David M. Harris, PhD, USA – Nd:YAG Laser Periodontal Therapy in Private Practice


Gabi Kesler, DMD, Israel - Experimental Animal Study Using Er:YAG Laser for Improved Osseointegration of Titanium Implants: A Comparison of Bone Healing

Lawrence A. Kutow, DDS, USA - Soft Tissue Uses of the Erbium Laser in Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Matthias B. Kreisler, Germany - Effect of Low-Level GaAlAs Laser Irradiation on the Proliferation Rate of Periodontal Ligament Cells: An In vitro Study

Sing-Ho Lee, DDS, PhD, Korea - Analysis of Er:YAG Laser Irradiation on Cutting Efficacy and Temperature Changes of Dentin

Fred S. Margolis, DDS, USA - Laser Dentistry for the Specially Challenged Patient

Dr. Francesco Saverio Martelli, Italy – The Carbon Dioxide and Nd:YAG Lasers in Advanced Implantology Procedures

Shigeyuki Nagai, DDS, Japan - Soft and Hard Tissue Management with the Er:YAG Laser in Esthetic Dentistry

Dr. Claus P. Neckel, Germany - The Effect of Low-Level Laser Therapy with a GaAlAs Diode Laser on the Bone Regeneration of Extraction Sockets

Frederick M. Parkins, DDS, MS, PhD, USA – Bond Strength to Human Enamel after Er:YAG Laser Preparation

Nora Raffetto, RDH, USA – Nd:YAG Laser Therapy for Beginning, Moderate and Advanced Periodontal Disease

Peter Rechmann, DMD, USA - Lasers in Periodontology: Today and Tomorrow

Michael D. Swick, DMD, USA – A Diode Laser Periodontal Case Study: Three-Year Follow-up

Den Y. Takita, DDS, Japan – Clinical Case Studies with the Nd:YAG laser

Gerald Weiner, DDS, USA – Diode Laser Gingival Recontouring for Cosmetic Improvement

Joel M. White, DDS, MS / Diana Gekelman, DDS, MS, USA – Nd:YAG Laser Fiberoptic Surface Temperature Measurement

Lecture and Participation Courses

Clinical Laser Applications

Protocols For Laser Retreatment

Robert E. Barr, DDS & Gloria Monzon, RDH

Soft Tissue Surgery and Lasers: A Perfect Match

Donald J. Coluzzi, DDS

Periodontal Regeneration Surgery

Douglas A. Gilio, DDS

Laser Soft Tissue Therapy

Teri Gutierrez, RDH and Nora Raffetto, RDH

Scientific Laser Applications

How to Critically Evaluate Laser Dental Science

Joel M. White, DDS, MS

Practice Management

Digital Clinical Records and Their Relationship to Advanced Dental Procedures

Scott D. Benjamin, DDS

Managing for Excellence

Robert M. Pick, DDS, MS

Incorporating Digital Photos and Video into PowerPoint

Glenn A. van As, DMD

Poster Discussion Session

What a Difference a Year Makes: A One-Year Retrospective of Five Diode Laser-Assisted Periodontal Case Studies

Paulo Jo Casper, RDH, BLS – Carbondale, CO

In-Office Laser Teeth Whitening Using the 810-nm Diode Laser

Hard and Soft Tissue Applications of One Laser: The Er:Cr:YSGG 2780 nm Wavelength

William H. Chen, DMD – Granite City, IL

Diode Laser-Assisted Tooth Whitening

Simon Gallier, BDDS – London, United Kingdom

Bactericidal Effect of the Er:YAG Laser on Common Implant Surfaces

Temperature Generation at the Implant-Bone Interface During Simulated Surface Decontamination with an Er:YAG, a CO2, and a GaAlAs Diode Laser

Dr. Matthias B. Kreisler

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

Comparison Between Conventional Scaling and Er:YAG Laser Removal of Subgingival Calculus: An In Vitro Pilot Study

Mark Levin, DMD, BmedSc – Tel-Aviv, Israel

Effects of Pulsed Nd:YAG Laser Microdeleage of Composite Restorations in Class V Cavities

Ali Obedi, DDS – Tehran, Iran

Tuesday March 12
Laser Certification Program
Advanced Proficiency

Wednesday March 13
Laser Certification Program
Standard Proficiency
Welcome Reception and Exhibit Preview

Thursday, March 14
General and Scientific Session
Lecture and Participation Courses
Exhibitors’ Forum
San Diego Area Tour by Land and Sea
SeaWorld

Friday, March 15
General and Scientific Session
Poster Discussion Presentations
Exhibitor Workshops and Seminars
Sailing Regatta on Mission Bay
Scenic City Tour & Shopping at Old Town
San Diego Zoo

Saturday, March 16
General and Scientific Session
Luncheon for Learning Series
Whale Watching Adventure
San Diego Harbor Excursion
ALD Golf Tournament
Conference Awards Reception
Installation Ceremony
President’s Dinner Dance

(Program is subject to change)