



Laser Florence 2002

Toward the end of 2002 (from 28th to 31st October) the seventeenth International Congress LASER FLORENCE 2002 – this time devoted to invasive and non-invasive laser-therapy – took place in the capital of Tuscany.

LASER FLORENCE was always a meeting of prominent worldwide specialists. The scientific committee of the Congress was composed of representatives of 17 countries (among others from USA, Japan, Great Britain, Italy, Czech Republic, Russia and Belorussia). The International Academy for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery (ALMS), whose foundation members were also four academic teachers from the Faculty of Health and Social Studies of the University of South Bohemia (Kuna, Kolářová, Kyplová and Navrátil), was the guarantor of the congress.

The conference program was divided into 17 sessions and because they proceeded simultaneously in three wards, it was not easy to make a choice. It was possible to divide the mentioned sessions into five thematic complexes:

- ❑ technical news and prospective development;
- ❑ experimental medicine;
- ❑ clinical use of therapeutic laser in individual medical branches (rehabilitation, sports-medicine, dermatology, and stomatology);
- ❑ laser utilisation in surgical branches;
- ❑ laser utilisation in veterinary medicine.

Representatives of the Czech Republic took part in the conference, presenting six papers. Teachers of the Radiology Department of the Medical-Social Faculty of the University of South Bohemia were co-authors in five of them. Several described their experiences with invasive laser therapy and in another report experiences in the choice of dermatologic indications in green laser therapy were discussed. Our study observing thermographic changes in the temperature of tissues irradiated by different wave-length lasers was also favourably received.

There were nine workshops in all applying to various medical branches and valuable knowledge was gained during the presentation of papers and resulting discussion.

The Congress took place in a lovely Renaissance villa – Villa Viviani – with a panoramic view of cathedrals and churches of this historical town. A traditional part of the meeting was an exhibition by laser producers and vendors, which showed modern trends in the development and clinical use of the above mentioned techniques. The social program was also very rich. Every evening brought many adventures and an inseparable part of congress was the exquisite background of a colourful historical town.

In conclusion, let me express my desire that the tradition of Congress LASER FLORENCE will be continued next year in spite of economic problems.

Leoš Navrátil