

LASER DENTISTRY ESTABLISHING A STRONG CONNECTION WITH *LASER THERAPY*

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Welcome to the second issue of the journal for 2013. With a quarterly-issued journal, we seem to take large steps through the year, like a kind of time machine, and here we are at the end of June with one half of 2013 behind us and the second half spreading out ahead ... quite a daunting prospect to consider where the first half of the year has gone! In Japan we are into our rainy season, the 'tsuyu', on which our rice and other farmers depend for the abundant water needed for their crops, so someone always benefits from something which not everyone really likes!

The Academy of the European Master in Laser Dentistry (EMDOLA)

The use of the laser in dentistry has gone through some swings over the past couple of decades, but is once again very much on the ascendancy. The current President of our IPTA, Professor Carlo Fornaini of the University of Parma, is the President-Elect of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry, thus tying this field strongly into our existing journal scope. This tie has been even more strengthened by the proposal from the Academy of the European Master in Laser Dentistry (EMDOLA) to adopt *Laser Therapy* as their official journal. This has been agreed, so we proudly welcome the EMDOLA Academy into the Laser Therapy family of associated organizations.

As a postgraduate study programme officially recognized within the EC, EMDOLA is managed by six European universities (Nice, Rome, Parma, Aachen, Liège and Barcelona), and the Academy was formed to round up the members who took this degree and provide them with a forum. Professor Fornaini is the President of the Academy, with Prof. Jean-Paul Rocca of the University of Nice as the Honorary President.

The EMDOLA project was born in 2006 to offer qualified dentists using laser technology in their practice to obtain formal qualification for their laser technique through a "postgraduate" university European

program, ensuring a complete education, theoretical and practical, on the applications of the laser in all the dental fields.

The originality of this master, officially approved by the European Community (EC reference: 28133-IC-1-2004-1-BE-ERASMUS-PROGUC-2), is given by the structure modules that are exactly the same in all six university locations: in this way each student may choose to follow a single module in the university he or she prefers.

Each module corresponds to three full days of lessons. The Master takes place in two academic years, the first, precisely structured into 8 modules, consisting of theoretical lectures and practical exercises, the second consisting of the preparation of a thesis and the clinical training. At the end of each module, a test is performed to verify the degree of the understanding of the previous module.

At the end of the course, in front of an International Jury, the candidate defends his or her thesis and clinical cases performed by the students are presented: the final score is calculated by adding the votes of the criteria, the thesis and clinical cases. The standard is extremely high, and in 2007 the EMDOLA Masters degree was honoured by the European Community with a Bronze Medal for academic excellence.

In 2012 the EMDOLA Academy was founded, as stated above, to bring together all the EMDOLA program graduates. In the first assembly of the Academy it was decided to adopt *Laser Therapy* as official journal of the EMDOLA Academy. It was also decided to organize the next Congress of the association on the 13th-15th of February 2014 in Monaco, within the event "Imagina Dental".

The entire *Laser Therapy* Editorial Board are happy and honoured that this important scientific society has joined us and has become part of the Journal family and we sincerely wish every success and a wonderful future to the EMDOLA Academy.

Laser Therapy Joins the Metadata Revolution

More and more journals and organizations are trying to have their data indexed internationally to enable researchers to find information that they want, from whatever source, in an easy and consistent manner, but the major problem is standardization of how the data are marked for indexing. A scientific paper is broken down into many different components for efficient indexing, but broadly speaking these fall into the metadata, and the text. The metadata include such information as the journal name and publishing information including the ISSN number, the authors, their affiliations, the article title, references and so on. To allow total conformity in cross-referencing all these data items in a cross-journal manner, the metadata have to be meticulously structured. In the recent past, many different journals and indexing services like PubMed had their own systems, and although they were similar, they were not precisely structured in the same manner so cross-journal searching and even intrajournal searching presented a problem.

An answer to this has been the development and foundation of an international service organization, CrossRef Metadata Services, who offer standardized,

structured, cross-publisher metadata to allow world-wide indexing and linking services to 'talk' to each other. In fact it's not strictly speaking *Laser Therapy* which has joined the metadata revolution, but our major data pool manager, J-STAGE, has: in common with other advances by J-STAGE to ensure a true cross-journal searching experience, and also to maximize linkage of J-STAGE data with the major indexing services such as PubMed, by such means as standardization of the language into which the articles are 'translated' (such as XHTML), J-STAGE has now formed a linkage agreement with CrossRef Metadata Services, following the lead of the vast majority of other major journals and indexing services.

Because of this, articles published in *Laser Therapy* and already available online through J-STAGE, and more recently EmBase and PubMed, are now easily searchable through a large variety of e-platforms, including GOOGLE, allowing researchers unlimited access to the enormous pool of knowledge built up over the 22 volumes of the *Laser Therapy*. **Figure 1** is a schematic showing the interrelationship between J-STAGE, CrossRef Metadata Services and other e-platforms.

It should be noted that metadata do not include full text articles, but these are available as always through

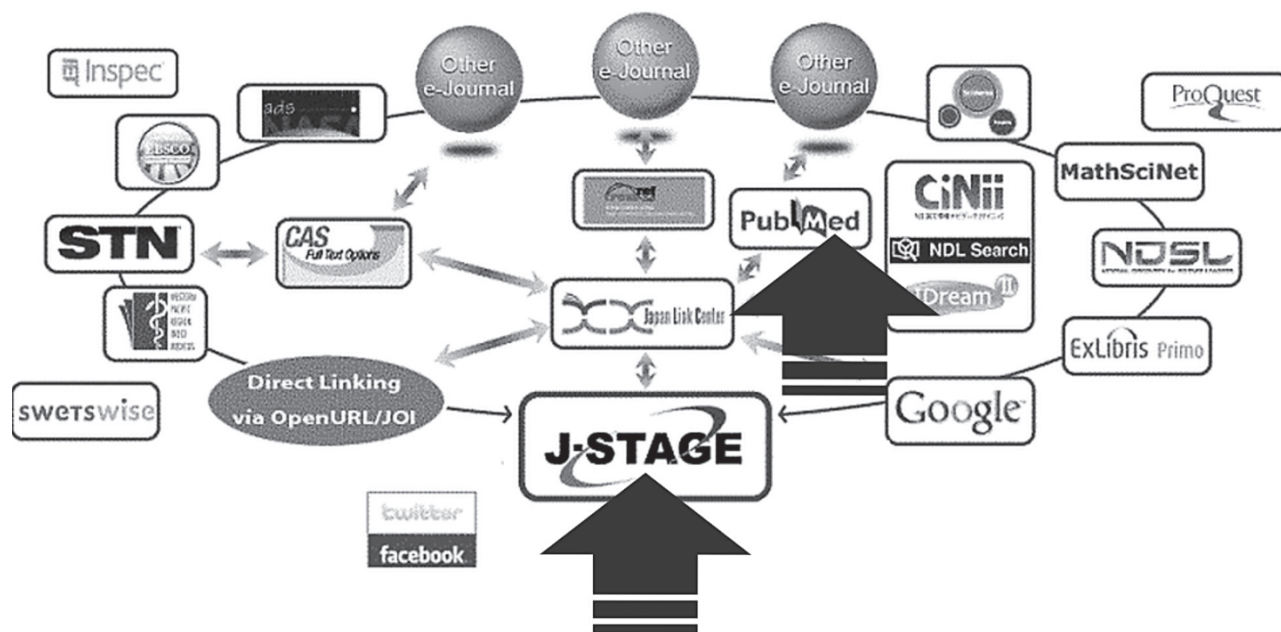


Fig. 1: Schematic showing the interlinking of J-STAGE with a huge variety of searchable ePlatforms (including PubMed) through the connection with CrossRef Metadata Services.

J-STAGE in the case of *Laser Therapy*, and links to these full text articles also exist at all stages of metadata-based searching via CrossRef Metadata Services. We are extremely excited with this step forward by J-STAGE which will directly impact on the availability of *Laser Therapy* articles, and we are extremely confident this will have an extremely positive influence on *Laser Therapy's* impact factor score as more and more researchers will be brought to *Laser Therapy* articles through searching for authors, titles, keywords and so on via CrossRef Metadata Services.

End Notes

Please don't forget that the 2013 5th International Phototherapy Association (IPTA) meeting will be held from the 19th to the 21st of September at the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva Congress Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania,

under the Meeting Presidency of Prof. Aurelija Vaitkuviene and with Prof. Juozas Vaitkus as the meeting Secretary-General. For full details of registration, abstract submission, accommodation and so on, please visit <http://www.ipta2013.com/home>. As a piece of late-breaking news, I have just heard that the European Society for Laser Aesthetic Surgery (ESLAS) has made overtures to adopt *Laser Therapy* as its official organ. ESLAS is the oldest European laser society for plastic aesthetic surgery. Discussions are already taking place and I will be able to report on the result in the next issue of the journal. Finally please also remember that *Laser Therapy* is once again offering the 2013 Best Papers Awards with worthwhile cash prizes, and you can see elsewhere in the journal the messages of appreciation of the 2012 winners. Have a great summer, or if you are in the Southern Hemisphere, have a great winter!