

Dear Reader,

_CAD/CAM has revolutionised engineering and manufacture since the 1950s. In the 1980s, such processes were progressively applied and integrated in the field of dentistry. It is no surprise that along with the technological milestones attained within the last decades, computerised dentistry and dental CAD/CAM technology have developed at a rapid rate. The 2011 International Dental Show in Cologne highlighted the unprecedented improvements in CAD/CAM, with exhibitors and attendees indicating that a growing number of manufacturers are joining the market.

The fast growth in CAD/CAM dentistry alongside new technology, materials and equipment has seen an increasingly rapid integration into both dental offices and laboratories. Without a doubt, digital technology is pivotal for the operational viability of every dental practice and laboratory. Are we prepared to keep up to speed with this growing industry? Can we implement this pool of information and technology in our practices without the proper expertise?

As with all new technologies, education and training are essential. The development rate of computerised technologies is not in sync with the level of training most dental professionals have attained. Evidently, with time, we will have to start implementing such technologies to remain up to date with standards and practices within the field. Companies and professionals specialised in digital dentistry place a great deal of effort and enthusiasm into training dental clinicians, technicians and dental assistants in basic and advanced techniques and procedures. Is this sufficient for the fast-paced and challenging reality they face on a day-to-day basis in their career? Every day, there are questions and uncertainties about approaching diagnostics, treatment plans and the selection of the proper material to obtain the desired outcome. Last but not least, the investment costs and the all-important return on investment have to be taken into consideration.

Since CAPP (Center for Advanced Professional Practices) started out in 2006 with the first CAD/CAM & Computerized Dentistry International Conference in Dubai, we have experienced a steady increase in the number of the events we hold and the number of participants and visitors. This year, the CAD/CAM & Computerized Dentistry International Conference will have spring and autumn editions: the sixth conference will take place in Dubai from 3 to 4 May 2012 and the seventh conference will be held in Singapore from 6 to 7 October 2012. This will be the first Asia-Pacific edition of the meeting. We would like to warmly invite all dental professionals to join us for these events. We are very excited to organise events focused entirely on computerised dentistry, aiming to build important bridges between our dental team, dentists, dental technicians and the industry.

In 2012, the **CAD/CAM** magazine will serve as a platform for education and information exchange with a new rubric—**digital platforms**. Dental schools, societies, associations and companies are invited to announce their course schedules here. More information about this exciting project is available inside this issue.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Dobrina Mollova
Managing Director of CAPP
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