Interview: “Endodontic treatment is an invaluable therapeutic technique”

By DTI

Interviewer: “Endodontic treatment is an invaluable therapeutic technique. Why do you think meetings such as IFEA’s WEC are important for the endodontic community? If so, why?”

Dr Cardinali: “I think that the IFEA congress is important for the international endodontic community. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Endodontics: The utmost values in dental care” which I explain as what is behind this and how you identify with it. Endodontic treatment is an invaluable therapeutic technique that can keep natural teeth healthy. The reach of its use depends on the country, and I have felt sorry that endodontic treatment has been more neglected than other fields, given its importance. We have various difficulties, especially with the limited choices for dentists, because of the government’s medical insurance system.

With this point of view, we came to the idea of going back to the basics and asked ourselves a fundamental question: what is most important for national oral health? A fancy building may be nice to look at, but it will not last long if the groundwater is not done properly. Likewise, our efforts to keep our natural teeth healthy for the long term should never be underestimated. Why do you think meetings such as IFEA’s WEC are important for the endodontic community?”

Dr Cardinali: “This is an absolutely necessary meeting. The American Association of Endodontists meeting, the European Society of Endontology meeting and the WEC of IFEA are the standard meetings of international endodontic societies, but while the meetings arranged by the first two associations are locally constrained, the IFEA gathering is the only academic congress that covers international endodontic treatment. Membership of IFEA continues to increase, and 36 countries have enrolled in IFEA as member countries. It is natural that there is a level of difference depending on the country, and everyone will believe everyone will level up through this kind of meeting. By doing so, we can contribute to the positive development of human beings, which is IFEA’s primary value. Also, the meeting promotes fellowship among endodontists and exchange of experiences and ideas in the whole world by sharing information with another.”

What are your expectations/hopes for the meeting, and what are you most looking forward to personally?

Dr Cardinali: “I am so excited about the meeting. The largest number of participants of all of past IFEA WECs will come from Korea to 70 countries all over the world. Personally, I am thrilled to meet endodontists from all over the world. I know that it will be a wonderful experience to meet participants from far away and from closer to home. Furthermore, I hope that IFEA will continue to grow into a global organisation representing the whole world.”

Besides running a private practice concentrating mainly on endodontic dentistry, Dr Filippo Cardinali gives lectures in theoretical and practical courses on subjects related to the isolation of the operative field and endodontics. He also often participates as a speaker at courses and conferences in Italy and abroad including the 11th International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) World Endodontic Congress, which has been taken place from 4 to 7 October in Seoul in Korea. In an interview with Dental Tribune Online, Cardinali shared his thoughts on lecturing at the event.

Dr Cardinali, why did you pick endodontics as your specialty? What do you see the challenges and the excitement?

Dr Cardinali: “After graduating in dentistry, I worked as a dental officer for one year at the Cagliari Military Hospital in Sardinia. At that time, military service was mandatory in Italy. The aim of the military surgery was to manage patients with emergencies. So, from the beginning of my career, I started treating many patients with endodontic problems.

Once I had finished my military service, I started working as an assistant in dental clinics where I mainly dealt with endodontic and restorative problems. To improve my knowledge and to better understand the importance of endodontic treatment, I saw a lot of improvements in every step of the endodontic treatment.”

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INTERVIEW