Dear reader,

In view of the Japanese tragedy and the still obscure situation at the Fukushima-I nuclear plant, it seems rather difficult at this point to deal with other things such as the future of dentistry. However, with another record IDS just having come to a close, it becomes rather clear that there is a revolution afoot that most dentists will not be able to afford to miss.

The swift recovery of the dental markets was a clear indication for the fact that dentists throughout the world have put the recession behind and are beginning to spend money on new equipment again.

However, this willingness to invest will not only benefit short-term clinical outcomes but most likely effect a dramatic change in how dental practices will be run in the future.

The majority of products presented at IDS are based on digital technology and offer outstanding connectivity for an almost complete workflow that is able to incorporate all members of a dental team as well as third party service providers such as dental labs. It is most likely that dental practices will look very different in a few years from now.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Zimmermann
Group Editor
Dental Tribune International

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In Memoriam Frederic Suter

Un grand homme dentaire, un grand homme d'affaires, et grand personnage, Frederic Suter:

Dental salesman, manager with profound even encyclopedic expert knowledge, lovely personality; these are attributes that characterise the French in Frederic Suter, a language that he as a Swiss native spoke as fluently as Italian, German or English.

On Thursday, 10 February, 2011, Frederic Suter passed away after long illness in Geneva in Switzerland near his long-term residence in Versiox.

Frederic Suter was a Dental Grande, who left his mark on the trade and the industry for decades. Those who were lucky to meet him, where immediately charmed by his natural, elegant and sympathetic character.

Due to his personality, he was an appreciated and beloved dialogue partner for dentists and business partners not only at the beginning of his career (His father was long term purchasing agent of Kuhlker & Gerthe in Zurich, the largest Swiss dental dealer of the 1960s.)

His popularity and loyal and unselfish dedication to customers, as well as the motivation and encouragement he gave particularly young colleagues made him climb the ladder to the executive boards of large international companies like USA Healthco and, lately, for the European business operations of Morita Japan.

In addition to this, he even found time to be involved into dental trade association work. For many years, Frederic Suter was president of the well-reputed Swiss Dental Trade Association.

I will gladly remember Frederic Suter, the many expert discussions with him as well as some of the last rides in his Sting Ray Corvette over the passes of the Swiss Alps. Frederic Suter also was a fast-paced skier and a great yachtsman on the Lac Leman. Privately, he never found someone to share his many interests. He lived most of his life as a convinced bachelor.

With Frederic Suter, the dental community has lost a great and universal beloved character. Our sympathies go out to his brother Ulrich.

Un dernier au revoir!

Contact Info

Friedrich Herbst is the Executive Director of international dental manufacturers (idm), an independent umbrella organisation that globally represents the common interests of the dental trade. He can be contacted at idm-vox@dti-online.de.

To the Editor

Re: “Specialists quarrel over single file endo”, (Dental Tribune Asia Pacific No. 1+2, Vol. 9, page 5)

As a general dentist with a passion for endodontics I am excited by each new development in endodontic training and equipment, especially when these are driven by a desire to improve outcome for our patients.

Where developments are driven primarily by a desire to speed up the process I have less interest. “One file systems” may make shaping marginally quicker but if they do not offer greater canal wall contact or if they distort the canal anatomy more than previous systems then we have gained little more than a couple of minutes of working time.

If a guide path is still required along with coronal flaring then just how much time we have saved is questionable. Any system that enhances our ability to irrigate a canal system more fully is likely to improve outcome and is worth considering no matter how many files are required.

Endodontic training needs to emphasise the comprehensive nature of planning (both endodontic and restorative) and the biological nature of the condition.

Understanding the 3-D aspect of the canal anatomy is essential and should be an important part of training. Predictable endodontic outcomes are achievable by all dentists with appropriate training and adequate time in practice. Any new system that assists this goal should be applauded.

Ian Knc, United Kingdom, 9 Feb 2010