

Editorial

In the Mirror of the Past, in the Light of the Future: The ISLA – A President Looks Back and Forward

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Abstract

This editorial for the 27th ISLA Congress in Beverungen in Germany reflects on the development, achievements, and challenges of the International Society for Medical Laser Applications (ISLA-transcontinental) from the perspective of its President for Science and Research, Univ.-Prof. DDr. Gerhard Litscher. It reviews the organization's milestones and growth while outlining future strategies for innovation, research, and international collaboration in medical laser technologies. The full keynote presentation is available at the end of the editorial.



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Keywords

ISLA, International Society for Medical Laser Applications; medical laser; laser technology; medical innovation; interdisciplinary cooperation; international research; laser medicine; laser acupuncture; scientific strategy; photodynamic therapy; ISLA congress

1. Looking Back: How It All Began

The story of the International Society for Medical Laser Applications (ISLA-transcontinental) has been shaped by vision, scientific curiosity, and a commitment to progress. What began as interdisciplinary meetings evolved over the years into a globally connected platform for innovation in medical laser applications. From the start, ISLA was more than just a professional society—it was a driving force for research, a hub for collaboration, and a home for transformative ideas.

Numerous milestones marked our path, including international congresses, groundbreaking research collaborations, the clinical implementation of new methods, and the development of a growing network of experts. Looking back, it became clear how much the integration of basic research, clinical application, and global cooperation had contributed to our success.

2. The 27th ISLA Congress: A Global Statement

The 27th ISLA Congress, held in Beverungen, Germany, represented another significant milestone. Experts from 26 countries and regions across six continents gathered to share new insights, technologies, and clinical experiences. This international diversity was not only impressive but also a powerful symbol of how globally relevant medical laser technology had become.

The atmosphere of the congress was shaped by openness, mutual respect, and scientific enthusiasm. Physicians, researchers, developers, students, and partners from a wide range of disciplines came together to generate new ideas and shape the future of our field.

3. At the Heart of Progress: The Medical Laser

Medical lasers have become indispensable in modern healthcare, from precision surgery and minimally invasive procedures to oncology, diagnostics, and pain therapy. Recent years have demonstrated the rapid development of this field and the crucial role of scientific guidance in ensuring safe and effective implementation.

ISLA played a central role in this progress through research, education, standardization, and the publication of international findings. This congress once again demonstrated how the union of research and clinical practice is key to innovation in laser medicine.

4. Shaping the Future: Strategies and Vision

In my keynote speech, I not only offered a retrospective but also presented a forward-looking roadmap for ISLA. Our future strategy rested on three core pillars:

- Promoting young scientific talent,
- Strengthening international and interdisciplinary scientific collaboration,

- Expanding scientific evidence-based clinical applications of medical laser technologies.

These goals were designed to position ISLA as a global leader in the field of medical laser applications — one that is scientifically rigorous, globally connected, and committed to sustainable innovation.

5. Gratitude and Outlook

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who made this congress possible — the organizing team, the inspiring speakers, our sponsors, and above all, the participants whose contributions brought the event to life.

ISLA remains a place where scientific expertise drives progress, fostered by shared responsibility, open dialogue, and a clear scientific focus on the future.

6. Full Keynote Presentation of Gerhard Litscher, ISLA President for Science and Research

The full keynote presentation, *“In the Mirror of the Past, in the Light of the Future: The ISLA – A President Looks Back and Forward”*, delivered by Gerhard Litscher (Figure 1) at the official opening of the 27th ISLA Congress, is available [\[here\]](#).



Figure 1 Gerhard Litscher, President for Science and Research of ISLA. Prof. Litscher delivered one opening keynote at the 27th ISLA Congress. His full presentation is available at the link above.

The following impressions from the 27th ISLA Congress (Figures 2–5) provide visual highlights of the event and are presented with permission and copyright © G. Litscher.



Figure 2 Participants from over 26 countries attended the official opening in the City hall Beverungen in Germany.

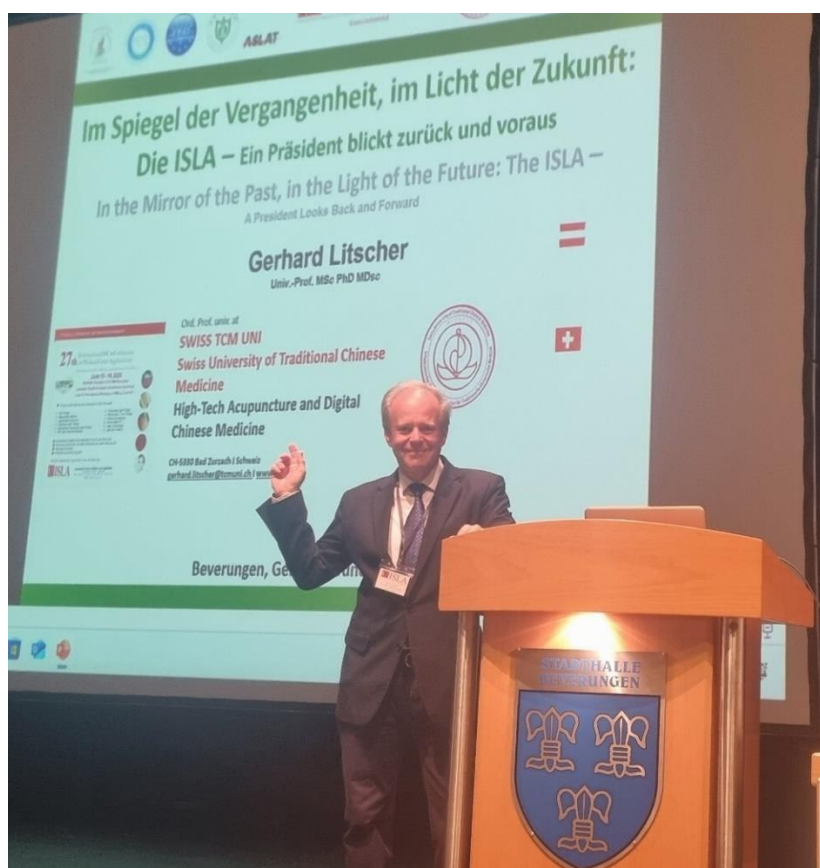


Figure 3 Keynote Lecture by Univ.-Prof. DDr. Gerhard Litscher. The ISLA President for Science and Research from Austria presents the keynote address: *“In the Mirror of the Past, in the Light of the Future: The ISLA – A President Looks Back and Forward”* [1-51].



Figure 4 Interdisciplinary Discussion. Experts from medicine, engineering, and research institutions exchange insights on current and future trends in laser medicine.



Figure 5 Accompanying Program and Networking Area. Young researchers and professionals discussed innovative projects and exchanged ideas in an informal and interactive setting.

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Competing Interests

The author hereby declares that no conflict of interests exists in connection with the publication of this editorial.

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