Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the Board and the Scientific Committee of the Lebanese Dental Association (LDA) we would like to welcome you to the 2013 Beirut International Dental Meeting (BIDM).

These are stimulating times for the LDA as we continue to grow and adapt, always remaining open and responsive to new ideas. Our organization is confronting many challenges and we are meeting these challenges in a time of nation-wide and global change. The BIDM2013 is an exciting forum in which we continue to

meet and bring together inspired professionals from all over the world and ensuring that the Lebanese Dental Association remains at the cutting edge.

We would like to take this opportunity to give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over these four days. The Scientific Committee has put together an unprecedented group of over 130 speakers, 45 of whom travelled from abroad especially for this conference, to deliver lectures and to lead workshops and problem-based panel discussions (PBLD). Presenters will share comprehensive cases on nearly every aspect of dental practice to Share Solutions.

Finally, we would like to thank you for attending the BIDM2013 and bringing your expertise to our gathering. You have the vision, the knowledge and the experience to help us pave the way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support. Throughout this congress, I urge you to stay engaged, keep us proactive and help us shape the future of the LDA.

Prof. Elie Azar Maalouf
President
Lebanese Dental Association

Dr. Nabih Nader
Chairperson
LDA Scientific Committee

Visit our booth:
A103
Interview: “We should All Be Very Proud Of Where We Are Today And Excited About Where We Are Heading”

By Mr. Rodny Abdallah
Dental Tribune Middle East

Founded in 1949, the Lebanese Dental Association (LDA) represents the dentists in Lebanon. A professional association devoted to the development of dentistry and the benefit of its members, the industry and wider community as a whole, it is acknowledged by government, public and private sectors both nationally and internationally. Every year, the LDA hosts the Beirut International Dental Meeting (BIDM), presenting a large scale of products and services available for the dental community in Lebanon.

President Professor Maalouf Biograpy

A Periododontist and Implantologist by profession and was the Head of the Periodontology Department at the Lebanese University School of Dentistry (2006-2011). Has a DDS from St. Joseph University (USJ) Beirut Lebanon 1985, CES A Anatomophysiology Paris V Mont-Rouge 1986, CES B Periodontology Paris VII Garancières 1987 France, CES B Prosthodontics Paris VII Garancières 1987 France, Doctorate in Periodontology 2010 Lebanese University Lebanon, Lecturer at the Lebanese University from 1988, Director of Post graduate program in Periodontology 2002-2005 and has accomplished more than 100 lectures in Periodontology and Implantology locally and Internationally.

“Sharing your knowledge is always a noble task.”

Comparing with your beginnings, how can you define the evolution of dentistry in Lebanon?

It is amazing to witness the huge transition of traditional dentistry into the digital era. I have had the chance to live the two worlds. Lebanon takes pride in sharing state of the art dental technologies and technology. Today radiography for example has changed the face of imaging by providing colleagues and patients a clearer view of the dentition for a better diagnosis and treatment plans. We are now able to make an x-ray with the tooth on the computer in just a few seconds. Lebanese dentists were the pioneers in adopting this new technology. Many other aspects have changed in dentistry, for example filling materials. Amalgam is no more the material of choice for many dentists with Composite replacing it by all means. I also would like to mention other dental gadgets that have caused a huge impact in our daily practice such as lasers, CAD CAM systems, digital photography, and computer assisted implantology as well as more.

How important is the involvement of digital dentistry?

Digital dentistry has gone very far in our careers. The future of dentistry is here where we are now. Technology has made our lives as dentists easier. It has helped us to serve our patients in a better way and on a higher level. We have experienced that the digital equipment has saved us a lot of time and money. I will give you one example about the importance of the involvement of the digital dentistry. Today any dentist placing implants in his office should have access to Cone Beam imaging because it allows for accurate and precise treatment planning. With 3D, you place the implant in the software and virtually go all around it seeing every single angle and how close it is to neighbouring teeth and major structures such as the sinus or the mandible nerve. We could have never done that in the previous years before the digital technology entered our dental industry.

“Dentistry today is living a new age of metal free restorations.”

How important is the role of the dental Lab technician in the dental team?

In today’s complex arena of dentistry, a Lab technician has to have a broad understanding of aesthetics, light, color and anatomy. They really need to upgrade their skills in order to be at the same level with their dentists. Continuing educational courses are as much important to dentists as to dental technicians. In Lebanon we have a high number of qualified dental technicians. Dentists working in teams need a skilled dental lab technician to join. His role is major in all aspects because he can achieve a good case through communication and knowledge.

How big is the influence of the dental industry in Lebanon?

The dental industry plays a major role in Lebanon. It has grown fast in the recent years. Overall dentistry is experiencing steady and healthy growth. Dental companies are providing many services for general and cosmetic dentists. Demand for dental services is driven largely by popula- tion growth and awareness. Today most people recognize the advantage of preventive care. They also understand the importance of doing mini- mal invasive work when they decide to replace missing teeth. Implants are playing a major role in this regard. This matter is giving a huge boost to the dental companies to provide more innovative products and always invest in technology to find better solutions for the dentists and patients. Some of the dental companies in Lebanon are studying the market and they fill any gap whenever found. We have almost all major dental materials.

Do you have any goals for the Leba- nese Dental Association to achieve in the next three years?

One of our major targets is to transform the Lebanese Dental Association into a professional enterprise where LDA members would find several facilities from our new website that will allow them the advantage of having a private email, forum to exchange ideas and cases, communicate and also interrelate with each other on a professional level as well as providing them with a special page dedicated for different dental branches with multiple articles. Another target is to provide all Lebanese dentists the chance to upgrade their skills and gain additional knowledge by continuing education at our center in Sodeco and

CAPP designates this activity for 20.25 continuing education credits.
in all other provinces. We are working to fulfill a dental insurance and bank loan program for patients as well. One of our latest achievements is a custom exclusive partnership agreement with a dental online college in Germany from which all Lebanese dentists can benefit from a free access to visualize scientific online videos for the next two years.

“The Delegates registered for the congress are eligible to receive ADA CERP continuing education.”

As president of the Dental Arab Federation, can you brief us on its role and importance in the dental field?

Dental Arab Federation was established to create a forum of support, education and cooperation. In our region, there are tens of thousands of highly skilled Arab dentists, physicians and other professionals, who could do much better through introducing each other.

Please identify your goals and ambitions for the next 2 years as part of your mandate as President of the Arab Dental Federation? How do you plan to achieve them?

This is another important issue, my vision is to create a Committee from the entire Arab world where we can exchange our experiences in the dental fields, organise series of continuing education with many levels from basic to advanced in all dental fields. Finally organise a congress where all Arab countries participate and this congress will give us an idea about the level of dentistry in the Arab world.

What is the main focus of BIDM 2013? What can you tell us about this event this year?

The BIDM2013 is an exciting forum in which we continue to meet and bring together inspired professionals from all over the world and ensure that the Lebanese Dental Association remains at the cutting edge. I would like to take this opportunity to give you an idea of what you can expect and what we hope to achieve over these four days. The Scientific Committee has put together an unprecedented group of over 130 speakers, 45 of whom travelled from abroad especially for this conference, to deliver lectures and to lead workshops and problem-based learning discussions (PBL). Presenters will share comprehensive cases on nearly every aspect of the dental practice. For the first time this year, the delegates registered for the congress are eligible to receive ADA CERP continuing education points by attending accredited scientific sessions throughout the congress. This has been made possible through our partnership with the esteemed Continuing Medical Education provider Center for Advanced Professional Practices. Throughout this congress, I urge all dentists to stay engaged, remain proactive and help us shape the future of LDA. I believe there are more than 70 dental companies exhibiting and sharing their latest products and news of the trade they represent.

What can you say about the dental education in LEBANON?

I hope that the Education offered in Lebanon will be available to doctors in every continent. Lebanon is an international hub for education in general and dentistry is no exception. Our experience in education has been positive over the past decades. Each dental university or educational center has highly qualified instructors to support the dental curriculum or program they offer. The ADA continuing education courses were created to enable dentists to develop confidence and skills required to achieve optimal aesthetic results. Dentistry today is living a new age of metal free restorations. This has brought the demand of conducting continuing educational courses for dentists and lab technicians to accompany the state of the art new techniques and materials. It is important to mention that in Lebanon the universities support our dentist pursuit for advanced learning and one of the advantages we have in Lebanon is that educational programs are offered in English and French speaking universities and are approached from Anglo-Saxon and European points of view.

“BIDM2013 is an exciting forum.”

How will your rich knowledge and experience help you handle the responsibilities as President of the Lebanese Dental Association?

As you know the experience and knowledge in the dental field can help to understand the need of dentists and their requests and to improve their situation by finding solutions to their problems. I have always enjoyed my role as an academic. Sharing your knowledge is always a noble task, I have always been committed to help and assist people. We should all be very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are heading.

What are your recommendations to the dentists and fresh dental graduates?

My modest experience permits me to say to all freshly graduated dentists that the diploma is just the beginning of your career. It is like a drop of water in a glass, only knowledge, experience and continuing educational conferences can improve our skills. My advice is that they should not be satisfied with just being a General Dentist. One must aim high, obtain additional knowledge and training, and go for a specialty in the dentistry.

Prof Malaoud, it has been an honor to interview, is there anything else you would like to share with the readers?

I am thankful to Dental Tribune Middle East and I hope that we can collaborate more and more with CAPP and Dental Tribune Middle East in the future. I will be expecting your full support and cooperation to make our partnership as fruitful and successful as possible.