

4th International Refractive and Corneal Surgery Conference

These biennial conferences became an international tradition.

The first conference took place in Jerusalem in the year 1999. The next two Conferences were located at the Dead Sea in the years 2003 and 2005. The fourth Conference took place again in Jerusalem in 2007. The intention of the organizers of the Conference was to bring the newest developments in the subjects of refractive and corneal surgery to the practicing surgeons.

The First Conference was devoted to the emerging subject of Excimer Laser refractive and cornea surgery, the experience with photorefractive laser treatment (PRK) and the developing LASIK surgery.

The Second Conference in 2003 widened the scope of the refractive and cornea surgery subjects to include new forms of surgery, such as Intacs, Phakic IOLs, multifocal IOLs in cataract surgery, the new wavefront technology, Zyoptix, Topoling and customized ablation.

The Conference stressed the subject of phakic IOLs, such as the Artisan lens, ICL and others. For the first time the subjects of new methods of laser surgery were presented. These included Intralasek using Femtosecond laser, EpiLasik, wavefront technology and conductive keratoplasty.

A large part of the Third Conference was devoted to the practical approach to complications of refractive surgery, including how to prevent them and how to deal with them.

The 4th International Conference took place in the lovely Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem. Cataract and Oculoplastic surgery were added to the traditional Refractive surgery subject. 297 ophthalmologists participated. Of these 90 came from abroad.

The "hot", new subjects included use of the femtosecond laser for keratoplasty, the new intraocular laser for cataract surgery (accomodative, multifocal and toric lenses), corneal crosslinking and intacs for treatment of keratoconus and ectasia, and new surgical techniques and innovations for cataract surgery.

New techniques of corneal transplantation were presented, such as endothelial transplants, DSAEK, DALK and Intralase enabled keratoplasty.

A whole session was devoted to refractive surgery of presbyopia: Presby-LASIK, intracorneal lenses for presbyopia, Laser ACE procedures and INVUE system for correction of presbyopia.

The participants of all conferences enjoyed, the novelty and the high standard of the lectures, the wet-labs and the panel discussions. The exceptionally high standard was a result of the routine participation of speakers who came from several countries and who were known to form the front line of surgeons, investingators and scholars in the discussed subjects.

Names that appeared again and again in the conferences included: M. Assouline (France), P. Binder (USA), A. Bron (UK), A. Chayet (Mexico), J. Gordon (USA), M. Kraff (USA), P. Laibson (USA), R. Lindstrom (USA), I. Pallikaris (Greece), D. Rootman (Canada), T. Seler (Germany), D. Siganos (Greece), and others. This list does not mention the great contribution of Israeli participants, who presented many clinical and basic studies and proved the existence of a very high standard of Israeli Refractive Surgery.

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