

Dr. Les Kelman - The International Congress on Innovation in Dental Devices and 3D Printing

- Dr. O'Keefe: Today I'm speaking with Dr. Les Kalman who's a faculty member at Schulich School of Dentistry in London, Ontario, and he's the congress chair for the International Congress on Innovation in Dental Devices and 3D Printing. Know Les, that's a mouthful. What's this conference about and why now?
- Dr. Kalman: Yeah. Good morning, John. Hope everything's well. Um, what's this conference about? It's no surprise there is an enormous explosion of 3D technology in dentistry, not just for clinical practice but in research. And I thought this would be a fantastic time to bring all the innovators together and speak about where we're at, but more importantly where we're going. And you know, we really focused on not only dentistry but more of a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together other areas, medicine, veterinary medicine as well, to see where they're at, where they're going, how dentistry can benefit, how we can collaborate and how we can just kind of move this discipline forward and maximize what technology can offer. It's our inaugural event. It's in September, it's in Amsterdam, it's inviting. It's a beautiful time of the year in Europe and it should be just an amazing event.
- Dr. O'Keefe: Is the emphasis on 3D printing or are you looking at a broader range of devices?
- Dr. Kalman: That's been a challenge. I mean, when you start looking at 3D printing, you could say it's synonymous with devices depending on what space you're in. Our hope was really to tap into other individuals that are in the device space, which was not easy to do. So, I will be talking in that space a little bit with our dental implant abutment that we worked on. So, the 3D printing and the device go hand in hand. And I think we will be pleasantly surprised by some of the other individuals presenting. For instance, Lithoz will be there. They will be presenting on 3D printed ceramics, which I am extremely excited about, looking at the dimensions and the prep requirements to see if they differentiate from how we prepare them traditionally. And then the nice part is we're going to tie this all together as a total package, even looking at regulatory considerations so that if someone's moving into this space, what they need to know so they're doing everything properly.
- Dr. O'Keefe: Do you think 3D printing is going to have a huge impact in dental practice in the future?
- Dr. Kalman: I mean, I do. You know, sometimes we have to step back. Dentistry in London, Ontario, southwestern Ontario, it might be very different than how it is in a highly advanced urban centre in Europe or Asia. But I think is already starting to have an enormous impact, especially in the world of implant dentistry. We have

our surgical guides, we have our bone reduction guides, but I think we're, we're not really aware of how much it's advanced in research. You know, I've been fortunate enough to be involved with 3D printing and titanium for very small parts and we just wrapped up the testing and it is incredible the strength that is produced from this avenue of fabrication. And again, I'll just reiterate 3D printing in ceramics, very excited to see what kind of results we can bring in.

Dr. Kalman: So, I think it will have a profound change, but I think it's kind of like when printers first came out. You know, everyone was very excited, instead of getting your film printed at the local pharmacy or photo shop, everyone bought a printer and said, hey, let me go ahead and print my pictures. And then they slowly found out that it had a lot to do with the supplies that you're using and the equipment that you're using. So yes, it's going to have a profound impact, but we just have to be cautious about how fast we dive into that.

Dr. O'Keefe: Right. Do you think there's something in your conference for Canadian dentists? What's your shout out to our primary audience, here?

Dr. Kalman: Oh, absolutely. I mean, again, you have Amsterdam in September. That's a warm welcome right there. You have 10.5 hours of CE. An amazing opportunity for collaboration. We have speakers from Canada, from the United States, South America, Europe, Australia and Dubai. So, just a wonderful multidisciplinary collaboration. In terms of dentistry, probably the forefronts of where 3D printing and additive manufacturing are heading. And then, again, I've tried to guide the speakers to really give a nice take home for everyone so that we can wrap it all up. So, for instance, our final speaker on the last day will be talking about 3D smile design and how he brings 3D printing altogether – in his clinical practice – not research-based, but clinical practice. And he's quite advanced coming out of Dubai. So, if anyone's done the 3D space, if anyone's a techie, if you're a practitioner, a clinician or researcher, if you're from industry, I invite you to come along and see what 3D printing has to offer.

Dr. O'Keefe: And we've got the URL of the website here. People can get all the information they need, registration, accommodation, everything, you can sort out. Website, that's to go to place.

Dr. Kalman: It is. Everything is listed there. It's a really nice laid out format. If you want to put my contact information up, I'm always available. If anyone has any questions, I'm happy to answer them. And just a warm welcome to invite everyone. This is our inaugural event. It will be run in parallel with two other medical conferences. So again, that ability to network and collaborate and see where the space is heading. I think this will be a fantastic event.

Dr. O'Keefe: Always a pleasure to welcome you, Dr. Les Kalman. Best of luck with your efforts. Look forward to finding out how things go.

Dr. Kalman: Thank you very much. Thanks for the time.