

IMCAS 2024

1-3 February 2024 • Paris, France • Anna Maria Fenech Magrin, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Aesthetic Medicine, Queen Mary University of London; Medical Director at DoctorAM Clinics, Malta.

Founded in 1994 to build a bridge between dermatology and plastic surgery, by Dr Benjamin Ascher and his wife Sonia Ascher, this year IMCAS celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Dr Benjamin Ascher said: "It all started as a family business, with four participants in the early years. The number of visitors increased each year, from 250 participants 25 years ago, to a record-breaking 18,650 visitors this year."

It was in 2007 that IMCAS Asia was launched. In January 2012, the IMCAS 'Anatomy on Cadaver & Injection Workshop' was established, and in July 2012, IMCAS China was launched in Shanghai. In 2016, the IMCAS Academy e-learning platform was launched and in 2017, the IMCAS Americas was launched in Cancun, Mexico.

It was an emotional opening ceremony for Dr Ascher, with an especially touching moment when he mentioned and thanked his wife. He also invited several key people on stage who were instrumental throughout the years for the success of IMCAS.

The sessions that have undeniably now become the mainstay of the conference are the 'Anatomy on Cadaver Workshops'. The first session, on Thursday morning, focused on the anatomy of the upper, mid and lower face and their danger zones.

Doctors Ascher, Cartier, Garson, Rapp and Rosengaus chaired the session. Professor Sebastian Cotofana performed a dissection on the cadaver at the lab, which was aired live. The anatomy was explained in incredible detail, this year starting from the forehead and the temporal area. Each cadaver session was then correlated to the respective clinical scenario by other presenters who performed live injections, which included botulinum toxin and fillers.

An exciting launch was that by IBSA Farmaceutici Italia SRL, of the new Profilo Structura. This was announced and presented during the IBSA Symposium, 'Profilo Structura and lipilifting: the new frontier of adipose tissues restoration in response to aging.'

Dr Molina gave an introduction and an overview of the role of adipose tissue in facial ageing, and how the fat compartments change with the ageing process. A gap in the market is noted in this area, as although different products may be used to target specific fat compartments in varying depth and location, none of these options have a specific indication for fat compartment volume restoration. Profilo Structura achieves a higher concentration



(L-R) Nova Macmillan and Jennifer Fallon from The PMFA Journal checking out the display of images from past IMCAS events held around the world. Bustling exhibition booths.

of high- and low-molecular weight compartments.

This gives different rheological parameters than Profilo, with adipose tissue integration and restoration ability. Apart from having filling ability it also has regenerative abilities. The anatomy was presented by Dr Ingallina, while techniques and clinical experience were presented by Doctors Tateo, Salti, and Forte. Different injection techniques were described depending on whether the patient ages in a 'Saggers' way or 'Sinkers' way. Sinkers have predominantly hollow or sunken appearance whereas in saggers, the tissues droop and fat bulges may be predominant.

Another interesting symposium was that by Merz Aesthetic. This was about the harmonisation of the ageing of the neck and décolletage. It was announced that Radiesse, a CaHA biostimulator, is now officially approved for décolletage treatment. Radiesse is injected in a hyperdilute form. Injection techniques were presented together with those for 'Global Biostimulation' of the face. A striking take-home message was "don't forget the non-facial areas! We do not have just one face, but a first, a second and a third face", referring to the hands and décolletage.

Regenerative medicine is becoming more important in the field of aesthetic medicine. Exosomes were very popular, with several sessions dedicated to its different uses, its clinical applications, the use for cosmetic purposes and also in combination treatment with energy-based treatments for example in the treatment of acne scars. Key questions which were elicited were about source, science, safety and stability of exosomes.

Other regenerative injectable products which are becoming more popular are the

polynucleotides. Polynucleotides are polymers which have high density and bioregenerative capabilities. They can be used in different Fitzpatrick skin types. Polynucleotides stimulate the surrounding dermal cells, they stimulate fibroblast growth, the secretory activity of the fibroblasts, collagen increase and increase of other ECM proteins.

We are all aware of how AI is strongly impacting the present era. This subject was given a lot of importance during this year's congress. An interesting session was 'AI in plastic and aesthetic surgery and dermatology: where are we in 2024?' An update of Robotics in aesthetic medicine and surgery was given. An interesting topic dealt with ways AI can be approached and integrated into aesthetic practice. This includes face apps and online tools. AI can also be used in dermatology to help diagnose skin cancers, predicting psoriasis, dermatitis and other conditions.

Energy-based devices were not lacking this year either. One such revolutionary device is the EndoliftX by Eufoton. I had the pleasure to be invited to the EndoliftX VIP 'meet the expert' sessions, where the likes of Dr Forte and Dr Ruffa shared their expertise on refined use of the EndoliftX device to achieve effective face and body sculpting.

Evenings at IMCAS were equally busy, with various networking events being organised by different companies. The IBSA Profilo night and dinner was a definite highlight. I was also invited to the Teoxane Gala night, where everyone danced the night away. The Congress itself ended with a Gala dinner and after party, a perfect ending to such a great congress.

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