

FACE TO FACE

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IAOMS



Tunisia a old town of Medina terrace of Palais d'Orient.

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Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the Maghreb. State and perspective

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The development of oral and maxillofacial surgery in the Maghreb and precisely in Tunisia has made a tremendous breakthrough at the end of the 1970's, due to the fruitful contribution of our seniors. Today more than 80 active specialists in Tunisia are divided equally among public and private practice.

THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY OF MONASTIR is the oldest and most renowned institution in Africa and most of the practitioners belonging to the French-speaking countries have attended it. In fact, there are

about 4,000 dentists practicing in Tunisia. I estimate we're luckier than our colleagues in the neighboring countries who are too few and lack basic infrastructure to set up an oral and maxillofacial association. The Tunisian Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, founded in 2005 and lately affiliated with the IAOMS, is the only scientific association representing the specialty in the Maghreb.

THE FUTURE ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SPECIALISTS must follow a long academic process starting with general medical studies followed by a

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highly competitive national exam. Eligible candidates undergo core trainings of the specialty. As a society, we always have been concerned with excellence in training and practice. That's why we have set high goals for future oral and maxillofacial surgeons. We're also keen on granting them a sound quality training and a mastery of every single field of our study domain. Moreover, an on going cohesion and continuity between the senior and the future field fellows is fundamental to ensure the practice's continuity and development. We have unfortunately noted that the lure for larger incomes and greater career opportunities have tempted a good number of our fellow colleagues and interns to shift to plastic surgery at the expense of the oral and maxillofacial field. That's why we have been envisioning the possibility of setting up a society likely to gather all the faculty experts in the French-speaking zone where they can exchange knowledge and experience. Yet, the main obstacle to the fulfillment of this objective remains the climate of political insecurity and civil wars in a number

We have more than 80 active specialists serving both the public and the private system.

of these countries. Our objective of enlarging our work's impact on the African Continent on a steady basis remains conditioned by the improvement of the overall political climate there.

HOWEVER, I MANAGED, AS A PRESIDENT OF THE TUNISIAN SOCIETY

of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, to establish English as the unique congress language during its annual meetings. Hence, I indirectly encouraged our colleagues to communicate in English in the presence of honorable international and renowned guests whom I'd like to thank for accepting our invitation. By doing this, our interns are convinced of the need of going abroad to expand their experiences. We encourage them to participate in international congresses and events to forge positive attitudes to enable us to meet our objectives concerning the future of our field.

FINALLY WE SHOULD IMPLEMENT all the possible conditions to protect our territory of action and continue to improve our knowledge. ■



Bureau of the
Tunisian Society