

**Dr Rolf Vollmer**

First Vice President and Treasurer of DGZI



## Dear colleagues and friends,

**After a break due to the COVID-19 pandemic**, the annual meeting of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dentale Technologie (dental technology working group; ADT) could take place again, and so I and the German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI) team could participate in this year's event in Nürtingen in Germany. Participants were again able to engage face to face, but online participation was also made possible by the organiser.

The event focused on the ever-increasing importance of digital technology—for dentists and dental technicians alike. One of the most decisive developments in this context is probably digital impression taking. Most of us can say from personal experience that it simplifies processes, and patients would like to avoid analogue impressions. However, despite all the possibilities of digital technology and the efforts by many congress participants to establish these, current developments cannot (yet) completely replace our analogue work. After all, analogue knowledge is of great importance, especially for the further development of technology. It was refreshing to see how, despite these limitations and bureaucratic burdens, dental technicians continue to pursue innovations for the benefit of our patients. We can certainly look forward with anticipation to what digitalisation and further development in the technical field may bring us in the future.

In addition to the digital production of crowns and dentures, the focus was on the materials used for their production. One of the numerous surveys on the experiences of the congress participants made it clear that the majority of the participants — more than 80 per cent — now manufacture crowns and dentures metalfree from zirconia. This topic was also addressed in the discussion

of the S3 guideline of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Prothetische Zahnmedizin und Biomaterialien (German society for prosthetic dentistry and biomaterials) on all-ceramics, their indications and Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2017 on medical devices. The latter has created a large burden for laboratories in everyday implementation and has meant that many materials have had to be taken off the market for reasons of recertification.

Something new for most of the participants was probably the job description of the denturist, a trained dental technician who is allowed to carry out prosthetic treatments independently in Switzerland, for example. Whether it will be possible for denturists to produce and fit complete dentures in Germany in the future met with a divided response and great contention. There are no legal requirements for such a development at present.

More information about the ADT conference can be found in the editorial section of this issue.

Personally, I hope you have had a wonderful and relaxing summer holiday and are looking forward to the DGZI's annual congress in Berlin on the first weekend in October.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Vollmer', written in a cursive style.

Dr Rolf Vollmer

First Vice President and Treasurer of DGZI