

Obituary: Dr Hans-Hermann Liepe

A leading authority on expert opinions has left us

Dr Hans-Hermann Liepe, retired dentist from Hanover, died at the age of 82 after a short but serious illness. Liepe, who had rendered outstanding services to the German dental profession in professional politics for decades, was chairman of the Expert Committee of BDIZ EDI from 2005 to 2017.

As a member of BDIZ EDI since 1 January 1991, Hans-Hermann Liepe witnessed the very beginnings of the association and influenced its development for many years after being elected Chair of the Expert Committee in 2005. The Expert Committee is one of the most important committees in BDIZ EDI. It is the place where experts in implantology—who serve as consultants and as expert witnesses in legal disputes—are trained. The Chair of the Committee manages the Association's list of experts and, together with the Executive Committee, decides on the topics to be discussed at the Expert Conferences that are held annually on behalf of the Consensus Conference on Oral Implantology.

During his time as Chair of the Implantology Expert Conference, Hans-Hermann Liepe helped define the importance of the implantological expert opinion: "Experts play an important role when new developments occur and new procedures are introduced by evaluating these procedures, amplifying either the acceptance of new treatment methods or their demise. The tenor of all Expert Conferences on Implantology of BDIZ EDI and of the various dental associations is that the experts speak the same language!" Incidentally, not only BDIZ EDI experts are invited to the Expert Conferences, but all the experts on the lists of the specialist associations and societies and of the state dental associations.

During Liepe's tenure, the Expert Conference has developed into a communica-

tion platform for experts. He also underlined the importance of well-trained court experts with the anonymised negative opinions he presented in BDIZ EDI publications from 2012 onwards.

Given the high cost of implant treatment, the amount at stake in litigation can be substantial. As implant treatment requires highly specialised knowledge and practical experience in both the surgical and prosthetic fields, Liepe had always recognised the immense importance of implantological expert opinions in legal disputes involving alleged treatment errors. He therefore attached great importance on the qualifications of the experts on the BDIZ EDI list.

But serving as Chair of the Expert Committee was by no means Liepe's only involvement and achievement in professional politics. In the 1990s he served in an honorary capacity as Vice President and then President of the State Association of Statutory Health Insurance Dentists (KZV) in the German state of Lower Saxony. He was also active in the Lower Saxony Dental Association and its Hanover district office. A highlight of his career was his service as Chair of the Assembly of the German Dental Association from 2010 to 2012. He was a member of the Expert Committee of the KZV for 25 years and served as an expert and senior expert in Lower Saxony.

Hans-Hermann Liepe chaired the Expert Conferences of BDIZ EDI with great aplomb and a sure instinct for the issues. We appreciated his enormous knowledge, not only in the field of oral implantology. His commitment extended to many areas of dental life, and he shaped the profession for decades. We have lost a colleague who was always friendly and open, an accomplished and thoughtful expert who always contributed his ideas for the benefit of his colleagues and the development of oral implantology. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts are with his wife Ingrid and his family. We will cherish his memory with affection and respect.

Christian Berger
on behalf of the BDIZ EDI Board

