

**32<sup>nd</sup> Expert Symposium on Fuerteventura**

# An inspiring journey under the palm trees

Fuerteventura, the sun-drenched island in the Canary Islands, became the meeting place for leading minds in dentistry from 27 October to 3 November 2023. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Expert Symposium turned out to be more than “just” a scientific platform—it was an eventful interplay of specialist knowledge, interdisciplinary exchange and a touch of holiday feeling under the palm trees.

The symposium focused on approaches to prosthetic treatment on implants—a topic that was not only inspiring but also scientifically sound and clinically proven. A wide range of topics from the entire spectrum of dentistry were covered by renowned experts in lectures and workshops. The exchange with highly experienced colleagues gave the symposium a unique dynamic. This article highlights some of the presentations.

Illustrated with moving pictures from Eritrea, the initiator and Scientific Director of the Expert Symposium, Prof. Joachim E. Zöller, provided deep insights into his charitable work in the field of cleft lip and palate repair surgery. This beautiful country poses great challenges in terms of medical care for the affected population. Zöller’s presentation emphasised not only the medical dimension, but also the humanitarian commitment involved in such projects.

Prof. Jörg Neugebauer took the audience on a journey through the landscape of prosthetic design, explaining how prostheses influence bone formation over the long term. His clinical insights showed that careful prosthetic planning can have a decisive influence on the success of implants.

Prof. Florian Beuer discussed current standards and developments in dentistry in his presentation entitled “What is good dentistry in 2023?” The importance of the digital workflow for atraumatic implant placement and bone augmentation was highlighted by Prof. Fred Bergmann. His presentation illustrated how modern technology can make implant procedures gentler, more precise and more efficient.

Dr Tina Mandel looked at innovative aspects of diagnosis and treatment. The app she developed and the technology she described promise to move dentistry towards patient-centred, time-flexible care.

Dr Sebastian Schiel completed the journey by looking at the face as a whole. In his presentation, he discussed facial profiles and aesthetic corrections in men and women that go beyond the purely dental aspects. He presented an interesting fun fact, describing the nasolabial angle as an indicator of character type—a surprising insight into how facial features are not only aesthetic features but can also indicate personality.

The author of this report, Dr Adina Landschoof, asked whether white implants could replace traditional grey implants. Her presentation provided in-depth insights and the latest findings. The bottom line was that “the future of implantology is not only becoming more feminine, but also whiter! Both scientific research and practical experience highlight the trend towards white—ceramic—implants. Aesthetics undoubtedly play a crucial role in modern dentistry, but my focus goes beyond that.” In the following workshop, the advantages of ceramic implants were explored in detail. The first question was to successfully integrate these implants. According to the speaker, soft tissue always plays an important role. The discussions during the workshop reflected the great interest and desire for innovation to meet patient expectations. Critical questions from experienced colleagues also contributed to interesting discussions that shed some light on the evolution of oral implantology over the generations.

The choice of venue under the palm trees contributed significantly to the success of the symposium. The idyllic setting right on the beach created an inspiring atmosphere for the professional exchange. Participants enjoyed not only the technical discussions, but also the social programme with professional evening entertainment and a first-class DJ.

The culinary delights during the evening events, especially the White BBQ evening, were a feast for the eyes and the palate. The combination of professional input and social interaction added a special touch to the symposium. In addition, the sports programme, which offered something for everyone, provided opportunities to feel the tailwind not only for the job but also for the soul.

## Conclusion

Prof. Zöller's 32<sup>nd</sup> Expert Symposium on Fuerteventura with participants from academia and clinical practice was more than just a scientific conference. It was an expe-

rience. The combination of professional excellence, stimulating discussions and a touch of holiday flair made this symposium an unforgettable event for all participants.

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