



35 years of BDIZ EDI: Still going strong

Dear colleagues,

I am very proud to announce that BDIZ EDI is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. This certainly makes it one of the most prestigious associations and professional societies in the world of implantology.

We can look back on an eventful history. In 2001, we achieved the recognition of the formal Focus on Professional Activities—Implantology (in Germany, this is an official designation and indicates a narrower area of specialisation of a professional—in our case, a dentist) by fighting for it all the way to the German Constitutional Court. In 2012 and 2013, on the initiative of BDIZ EDI, six dentists went to the same court against the 2012 version of the GOZ, the German fee schedule for dentists in private practice. In 2015 we sent an alternative draft law on anti-corruption legislation in the healthcare sector to the Ministry of Justice.

The BDIZ EDI and its external experts were involved at an early stage in the analyses of the EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR). We predicted the situation as it is itself today—with excessive bureaucracy, a lack of Notified Bodies and the demise of medium-sized medical device manufacturers. We conducted an extensive survey of the dental industry, which confirmed our fears. Without the support of our legal advisor, Prof. Thomas Ratajczak, who has been with us from the very beginning, we would not have been able to implement many of these projects and overcome the obstacles. At the moment, six dentists, on the initiative of the BDIZ EDI, are taking legal action before the Constitutional Court of Berlin

against the 65-year (!) hiatus in the increase in value of fee points in the GOZ.

For more than 25 years, BDIZ EDI, in cooperation with the University of Cologne, has been teaching young and interested dentists the basics of oral implantology in its Curriculum Implantology. In October, Joachim E. Zöller and Hans-Joachim Nickenig will start the 26th course at the University of Cologne. Due to high demand, we will be offering a second Curriculum in the south of Germany, starting in September, which will be supervised by Jörg Neugebauer and Markus Tröltzsch. The face-to-face events will take place at the Munich and Ansbach locations, but there will also be online courses that can be accessed on demand. High quality, small groups, affordable fees—that is still our motto. We are happy to share our expertise on the structure of our Curricula modules with our partner associations if they see a need for their own Curricula Implantology.

A European orientation has been part of the BDIZ EDI statutes since 2002. The addition of “EDI” symbolises this orientation: European Association of Dental Implantologists (EDI). EDI is also part of the name of the *EDI Journal*, which has been distributed to implantology associations and professional societies and members outside Germany for almost 20 years. BDIZ EDI works with partner associations throughout Europe that support its aims. Whether in Berlin or Brussels or Strasbourg, the association participates involved in health policy debates as soon as they have a bearing on dental practice.

The BDIZ EDI guidelines have been an important part of BDIZ EDI’s appeal since 2006. These guidelines communicate diagnostic and therapeutic recommendations to the “outside world”. To this end, we have established the European Consensus Conference (EuCC), which examines current issues in oral implantology from a European perspective. We are supported by experts from dental practices and universities in Europe and beyond who work with us to develop these guidelines for implantologists. Ultimately, the consensus is translated into a document that has a real impact on implant practice—every year.

The Association’s guiding principle comes from its “founding fathers”: “Any dentist who has obtained the requisite qualifications should be able to practise dental implantology in his or her own practice.” This is what we stand for and what we on the BDIZ EDI Board are still working for today: postgraduate training for dentists, the economic viability of every dental practice and the freedom for dentists to continue to do what we do best in the future: treat our patients well.

Our association was founded 35 years ago to preserve the fledgeling discipline of oral implantology in individual dental practices. As you can see, we are still working towards that goal in the 35th year since the Association was founded.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Berger', written in a cursive style.

Christian Berger, President BDIZ EDI