



Third International Congress of the four dental associations of the Czech Republic, Austria, Bavaria and Saxony

Meeting in Bohemia

The meeting has already become a tradition: this year's international congress of the four (national or regional) dental associations from the Czech Republic, Austria, Bavaria and Saxony took place against the historic backdrop of Český Krumlov in South Bohemia. In the two previous years, the city of Karlovy Vary had been the meeting place for the four dental associations. The BDIZ EDI was also once again present at this third transnational meeting.

In the presence of Pavel Klíma, Deputy Governor of the South Bohemian Regional Committee, congress host doc. MUDr. Roman Šmucler, CSc, President of the Czech Dental Association, opened the one-day congress, which is traditionally attended by speakers from the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. Šmucler praised the city of Český Krumlov on the Vltava River as an excellent place to host this transnational meeting. He said that cooperation between dental associations was particularly important in promoting cohesion within the European Union.

At the opening ceremony, the representatives of the guest dental chambers offered their greetings: Dr Christoph Meißner, Vice President of the Saxon Chamber of Dentists (LZKS) and—on behalf of the presidents from Bavaria and Austria, who had been held up in traf-

fic—Christian Berger as Past President of the Bavarian Chamber of Dentists (BLZK) and Dr Ernst Michael Reicher, from the Austrian state of Burgenland. While the four presidents discussed topics in a political meeting as soon as Dr Frank Wohl, President of the Bavarian Chamber of Dentists (BLZK), and his Austrian colleague Dr Birgit Vetter-Scheidl, President of the Austrian Dental Chamber (ÖZÄK)—the Congress itself also got underway.

MDDr. Patrik Pauliška (Prague, CZ), opened the session with a presentation on the vertical preparation of fixed restorations, using his own cases to support the “renaissance of the Biologically Oriented Preparation Technique (BOPT)” according to Ignazio Loi, who in 2013 had presented a novel approach to the prosthetic restoration of periodontally healthy teeth using vertical or feather-edge prepara-

tion. The aim of BOPT is to remove the anatomical emergence profile of the tooth or existing preparation margins, thus creating a preparation area to be created in which the crown margin can be moved coronally.

MDDr. Martin Košťál (Trutnov, CZ) discussed pre-endodontic preparation, used for professional root canal treatment through the cavity/canal access opening. Inefficient radiographs often lead to misdiagnosis, he warned. In case of doubt, a digital volume tomography helps to plan the correct access to the root canal system. Despite all the technological support, the possible anomalies of the root canal system should be known. Ultimately, common sense should be used to weigh up the options. Košťál, who claims a 92 per cent success rate for root canal treatment in his practice, believes that underesti-



mating the basic parameters can lead to incorrect trephination. "You can recognise good endodontists by the fact that they do not deviate from the protocol", he concluded.

Prof. Dr Karl Glockner, Head of the Division of Restorative Dentistry, Periodontology and Prosthetics of the Medical University of Graz (AT), reported on the unsatisfactory search for replacement materials against the backdrop of the EU amalgam ban, which will come into effect on 1 January 2025. Composite fillings take three to five times longer to place than amalgam fillings. For him, glassionomer cement fillings are therefore the viable alternative, with the caveat that they only last three to five years.

The prosthetically driven digital workflow in oral implantology was the topic of the presentation given by the only speaker from Germany, Christian Berger (Kempten). Berger, who is President of the European Association of Dental Implantologists (BDIZ EDI), presented the current guideline of the European Consensus Conference, which is held every year under the auspices of the BDIZ EDI and provides clear recommendations on a current topic in oral implantology. The latest update to the guideline on the digital workflow was published in February 2024. This comprehensive document covers all aspects of digital dentistry, from digital diagnostics and digital impression taking and im-

aging to CAD/CAM-supported augmentation techniques and digitally controlled implant positioning. For the first time, artificial intelligence (AI) has also been considered in the guideline. Berger used his own cases to demonstrate the path of prosthetically driven case planning. "Every case is a combined case: from prosthetically oriented case planning to implant surgery."

Following the presentation by Mgr. Alexandra Košťálová, on nutritional issues with school meals in the Czech Republic, MuDr. Pavel Hyšpler (Prague, CZ) confidently presented the essence of his 15 years of clinical experience in dealing with L-PRF (leukocytes and platelet-rich fibrin). His experience with vestibular augmentation in ridge preservation using only PRF (platelet-rich fibrin) had shown stable tissue after five years. PRF is an autologous platelet concentrate used to regenerate soft tissue and bone. The membranes did not turn into bone as hoped. There was soft-tissue regeneration, but no bone formation. His experience with L-PRF, which he now uses for transcresal sinus lifts, has been very different. Hyspler confirmed that the newly formed tissue had indeed turned out to be bone. His conclusion for the audience was clear: L-PRF is more cost-effective than collagen membranes and has been proven to be beneficial in scientific studies. However, there is a clear need for qualified personnel. He concluded by stating emphatically that PRF is not a blood derivative, but autologous tissue. This distinction is crucial for dental practices.



Reception of the presidents with Prof. Roman Šmucler (left) and the past-president of Bayerische Landes Zahnärztekammer Christian Berger (middle).



MDDr. Patrik Pauliška



MDDr. Martin Košťál



Prof. Dr Karl Glockner



Christian Berger



MUDr. Pavel Hyšpler



Prof. Dr Roman Šmucler

MUDr. Roman Šmucler, delivered a presentation on the realistic application of artificial intelligence in dentistry that was eagerly awaited. The Czech chamber president chairs the “Digital Dentistry and AI” working group of the European regional organisation ERO in the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) and also works together with Prof. Dr Falk Schwen-

dicke (University of Munich) in the global FDI working group on artificial intelligence. Šmucler stated emphatically that AI is bringing about the most significant structural change in dentistry in the last 100 years. This includes the use of ChatGPT, telemedicine, marketing, AI-controlled medical documentation and even autonomous implant placement by

robots. He was clear that a gap would open up in the future between practices that used AI and those that did not. However, the development of AI is generally extremely rapid because the systems are capable of learning and optimising themselves. The EU Parliament is currently working on regulating AI for various risk groups. He also highlighted the use of chatbots in dental practice, citing their use in administration, marketing, X-ray screening and initial interpretations, experiments in diagnostics and digital modalities as current trends. “Robotics and AI will completely change the planning and processes in the dental practice,” he concluded.

After all these discussions of future developments and AI, historian Ondřej Lee Stolička, PhD, concluded the congress by taking the audience on a journey into the rich past of Český Krumlov and the history of the noble Rosenberg family during the Renaissance era. The congress was held in the former Jesuit school, now the Hotel Růže.



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