Presidential handover at the Osteology Foundation

A conversation with Christer Dahlin and Frank Schwarz


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A new chapter begins for the Osteology Foundation: Frank Schwarz succeeds Christer Dahlin as president.

Following the Osteology Foundation board meeting on 30 June 2025 in Zurich, Switzerland, a new chapter of leadership began. Christer Dahlin (Sweden) concluded his term as president, handing over the role to Frank Schwarz (Germany). In this joint interview, the two share their perspectives on the Foundation's strategic direction, the evolving landscape of oral regeneration, and their shared vision for the future.

Christer, looking back at your term as president, what did you see as the Foundation's most important strategic priority?
Christer Dahlin: A key priority was ensuring that the Osteology Foundation continues to be perceived as a leading authority in oral tissue regeneration. To achieve that we need strong representation from across the field and a clear connection to emerging trends. One such trend is the increasing gender balance in dentistry. This shift brings new perspectives and helps us ensure that our programmes resonate with the evolving professional landscape. Especially for the younger generation, our initiatives must reflect their values and professional needs.

Frank, you're now taking over the presidency. What are your thoughts on continuing this direction?
Frank Schwarz: Christer has laid a strong foundation, and now it's about moving that vision forward. One of the challenges we face is maintaining our relevance in a fast-evolving world, while also staying true to our mission of bridging science and clinical practice. In the future, the Foundation should continue building strong partnerships with key organisations in dentistry, such as the AAP, EFP, and through initiatives like the Global Consensus for Clinical Guidelines (GCCG). Working together allows us to share knowledge, coordinate our efforts, and increase our impact without duplicating work.

What does staying relevant mean for the Foundation's programmes and focus areas?
CD: It means being responsive to both scientific progress and societal changes. We've reworked many of our programmes to specifically address the needs of the next generation, whether researchers or clinicians. Their success is essential to the continued advancement of the field.

FS: Yes, and it also means embracing emerging topics like artificial intelligence in dentistry. AI is already starting to reshape clinical workflows and research approaches. To stay relevant, we must reflect these changes in our

educational offerings and strategic outlook. Importantly, we must also acknowledge that oral tissue regeneration is no longer an isolated discipline. It has grown into an area that contributes meaningfully to both oral and general health, making our work even more impactful and far-reaching.

Frank, how would you describe your new role as president within the Foundation?
FS: The position of president at the Osteology Foundation is entirely voluntary, and I receive no financial compensation. This is something I find important to underline, as it reflects the non-profit, altruistic approach that defines the Foundation. Our executive board operates on a very collaborative level. My role as president is not to impose decisions but to moderate discussions, bring different perspectives together, and help the committees reach a balanced and well-supported outcome. It's truly a shared effort built on mutual respect and a common goal to advance the field.

How does the Foundation safeguard its independence in research and education?
FS: We are very conscious of our role as an independent foundation, separate from any commercial interest, including from our founding partner. In our educational activities, we do not allow any form of product placement. Our research funding and clinical training programmes are designed to support science, not sales. It's a principle we've held from the beginning, and it's earned us long-standing recognition from leading international societies. We're proud to offer some of the few truly independent programmes that support young professionals in research and academic development, something rare in our field.

In a few words, what's your shared vision for the Foundation?
CD: To be a forward-thinking, inclusive platform at the heart of oral tissue regeneration.

FS: And to ensure that scientific excellence, clinical relevance, and collaboration drive the field forward together.

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