

Implantology at the crossroads of practice and science

An interview with Dr Georg Bach

In early October 2025, Hamburg hosted the 54th International Annual Congress of the German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI). Since 2018, the DGZI has reinvented its congress format, creating an event that not only highlights the latest developments in implantology but also charts the course for the specialty's future. Dr Georg Bach, the newly elected President of the DGZI, shares his reflections on this year's congress.

Dr Bach, you mentioned a “tension” between practice and science in implantology. What does this mean, and why is it so relevant for dentists today?

Implantology has long been the dental specialty most closely scrutinised by scientific research. Practices are constantly inundated with new findings, and over the years we've learned that not everything presented in high-profile studies necessarily translates into everyday clinical relevance.

For practicing dentists, separating what truly matters in day-to-day implantology from what is primarily of academic interest remains a constant challenge. The sheer volume of research, combined with the unique needs and approaches of individual practitioners, makes this even more complex.

At this year's congress in Hamburg, we addressed this challenge head-on. Our goal was to explore the interface between cutting-edge science and practical application, to question assumptions, provide guidance where possible, and ultimately enable each dentist to draw their own conclusions and implement strategies that fit their practice.

With its mix of scientific rigor and clinical relevance, the DGZI Congress proved to be not just an event to attend, but a roadmap for the future of implantology.

The DGZI was founded in 1970, at a time when dental implantology was still in its infancy. What has changed in implantology over the past decades and which advances do you consider particularly significant today?

The founding fathers of the DGZI clearly recognised that oral implantology needed a solid, scientifically validated



foundation, and that a unified voice, a true “common sense” in implantology, was essential. These insights were correct in 1970 and remain just as valid in 2025. From a purely professional standpoint, one might even say that not much has changed, but that's only a formal perspective.

Your question, however, almost certainly has a more practical focus, and in that regard, enormous progress has been made. Within the first decade of our society's existence, implantology had already resolved the primary questions regarding implant shapes and osseointegration protocols. Then came the phases of new implant surfaces and prosthetic approaches. The introduction of





cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) revolutionised pre-implant diagnostics. This was followed by the multifaceted era of “digital implantology,” which continues today and has transformed virtually every aspect of the field. Against this technological backdrop, oral implantology has changed fundamentally, there’s no doubt about it!

Table Clinics were offered to participants at the congress. What exactly is meant by the concept of “Table Clinics,” and how do they contribute to a particularly practice-oriented and interactive exchange for participants?

Table Clinics proved to be an invaluable tool and a core component of this year’s congress. Leading experts introduced specific topics in oral implantology through brief opening statements in small groups. What followed was dynamic discussion, critical debate, and hands-on practice, allowing participants to gain practical know-how.

Participants could choose three Table Clinics tailored to their individual learning needs. A beginner in implantology naturally selected different sessions than an experienced practitioner seeking specialised topics. Walking through the hall during the congress, it was inspiring to see colleagues engaging in lively discussions at the tables. The combination of practical learning, collegial exchange, and relaxed atmosphere made these sessions truly special.

The congress also offered a forum for young dentists. How do you see the role of the next generation of implantologists, and what opportunities did the congress provide for them?

Our young colleagues are the future of the DGZI. In just a few years, they will not only shoulder the main responsibilities of dental care in Germany but, within our society, will also take on leadership roles and guide the DGZI for decades to come. They will do so under evolving conditions, certainly with different topics and priorities, and I am confident they will do so both empathetically and successfully.

To engage young colleagues and make the DGZI accessible and appealing to them, the first day of the congress was dedicated to their needs. This included a Future Forum with visionary and highly relevant topics, high-quality video presentations accompanied by live explanations from leading experts, and the Table Clinics specifically designed for them.

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Finally, what is your vision for the future of dental implantology? How do you see the role of the DGZI in the coming years?

I would actually like to quote the vision of our founding fathers. This year, the DGZI turned 55 and remains committed to the same goals as in 1970: We are a reliable partner for implantology practitioners, continue to see dental implantology as primarily practiced in private clinics, accompany and evaluate scientific developments, and then distill the essence for our members—through congresses and education programmes, such as our new NEO curriculum. The objectives in 1970 and 2025 are almost identical; the challenge is to adapt them to the respective framework conditions.

Dr Bach, thank you very much for your time and for sharing these insights.