Pioneering spirit since 1851

Geistlich's vision of regenerative dentistry

With 175 years of company history behind it, a long-standing commitment to scientific excellence, and a clear focus on the future of regenerative dentistry, Geistlich continues to help shape progress in the field. At the Osteology Symposium Vienna 2026, CEO Diego Gabathuler spoke about the importance of the congress as a forum for professional exchange, the latest developments in hard- and soft-tissue regeneration, and the company's strategic priorities for the years ahead.

Dr Alina Ion

What role did the Osteology Symposium Vienna 2026 play for Geistlich—both in terms of dialogue with the professional community and for the company's own development?
The International Osteology Symposium is the most important event of the year for everyone working in regenerative dentistry at the highest level. Within implant dentistry and prosthetic treatment, regeneration remains one of the most demanding areas—but also one of the most decisive. It is fundamental not only to clinical success, but also to the long-term stability and durability of implants and prosthetic restorations.

That is precisely what makes the Osteology Symposium so valuable. It is entirely dedicated to excellence in dental regeneration, bringing together the latest scientific research and the newest clinical insights, all with the goal of improving patient care. For us, it is far more than a congress. It is a unique opportunity to engage in direct and meaningful dialogue with customers, researchers, clinicians, and partners from around the world.

The symposium creates an ideal setting to exchange ideas on the latest advances in science, discuss emerging techniques, and reflect on proven treatment concepts that continue to shape daily practice. It also allows us to better understand the needs and expectations of the professional community—something that is essential for our own continued development as a company.

The Osteology Foundation itself has deep significance for Geistlich. Peter Geistlich established it in 2003 with the aim of advancing research, supporting education, and fostering the next generation in regenerative medicine. That commitment remains at the heart of what we do today and is, if anything, more relevant than ever.



The symposium brought together international experts from both research and clinical practice. Which topics and developments do you currently consider particularly important for the future of regenerative dentistry?
From my perspective, one of the most pressing questions is how we can address the rising prevalence of peri-implantitis, how we can reduce it more effectively and, above all, improve prevention. This raises a number of key issues: what are the decisive factors in treatment planning, clinical management, and product selection? There are some very exciting and highly relevant new studies and findings in this area that are helping to move the field forward.

Other particularly important developments in hard- and soft-tissue regeneration concern the growing potential for more personalised treatment. One key question is how we can make better use of technologies such as artificial intelligence. Thanks to intra-oral scanners, cone beam com-

puted tomography, and especially the combination of these tools, we now have access to more clinically relevant data than ever before. The challenge—and the opportunity—lies in using this information intelligently to develop truly individualised treatment concepts.

Another important area is how regeneration can be further enhanced and accelerated, for example through biologics. At the same time, the prevention of complications remains a central priority. Beyond these scientific and clinical advances, interdisciplinary collaboration and the patient perspective are also becoming increasingly important, and both were very clearly reflected throughout the congress.

Was there anything in particular that you found especially rewarding or enjoyable about the congress?
Very much so. What I appreciated most was the opportunity to connect with so many members of our wider community—and especially with the members of our Customer Advisory Board. This group brings together clinicians from all over the world. During the Osteology Symposium, we spent half a day together discussing and shaping future products, technologies, and treatment workflows. That exchange was extremely valuable.

Another personal highlight for me was the dialogue and collaboration with young surgeons and dentists. I am always interested in what motivates the next generation and in how we can best support them on their professional journey. It was also a pleasure to see the three winners of our Case Competition present their work on stage during the symposium.

Geistlich is celebrating 175 years of company history. What does this anniversary mean to you personally as CEO, and what message would you like to send to customers and partners through it?
The long-term perspective of a family-owned company was one of the many reasons why I chose to become CEO of Geistlich. Celebrating 175 years of company history stands for reliability, quality, and responsibility—values that are more important today than ever before.

While many industries such as electronics and automotive are seeing a strong trend towards lower costs, often at the expense of quality, we have consciously chosen a different path. We remain committed to delivering the highest possible quality for our partners and, ultimately, for patients because we are not forced to think in terms of quarterly results, we have the freedom to pursue sustainable development over the long term.

In my previous professional environment in the electronics industry, business was driven by a 13-week rhythm. Here, by contrast, the Chairman of the Board asks me: what do we need to do today in emerging markets to maintain our leading position there ten years from now? Which regenerative approaches will be relevant a decade from now? That is a very different way of working. And it is a privilege.



Geistlich has stood for scientific rigour and long-term thinking for many decades. How do you succeed in combining that tradition with the pace of innovation today?
Our approach is built on a combination of long-term thinking, continuous innovation, and uncompromising scientific rigour. In regeneration, there are no shortcuts to lasting success. One of the defining themes is the interaction between oral and overall health, which makes the quality of the biomaterials used—as well as the treatment protocols themselves—absolutely critical.

When developing and approving new products, we actively seek feedback from clinicians during pilot phases before a product is launched. If the result is not fully convincing, the product does not go to market. That principle reflects the standard we set for ourselves: innovation must not only be new, it must also be reliable, clinically meaningful, and truly beneficial in practice.

Looking ahead, what priorities is Geistlich setting for the coming years in order to remain a relevant driving force in the industry after 175 years?
As a global leader in regeneration, we want to continue shaping the future with therapies that are even better, more efficient, and more individualised. At present, we are seeing a clear trend towards faster solutions and improved prevention—both of which are highly relevant to bone regeneration as well. Our role is to translate these developments into reliable, integrated treatment solutions.

At the same time, we are expanding our portfolio globally in order to align our offering even more closely with the needs of users and the specific requirements of different markets. A key part of this strategy is to make our expertise in regeneration accessible to an even broader range of customer groups and markets—always without compromising on quality.

Thank you very much for the interview and for these valuable insights.