Meeting in Lisbon attracts delegates from across the globe



Founded in the early 1990s, the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) is dedicated to "bridging the gap between science and clinical practice". The Association brings together researchers, scientists, dental clinicians and other healthcare professionals from around the world to exchange knowledge, define best practice in implant dentistry and promote cutting-edge research in osseointegration, peri-implant biology and implant-supported rehabilitation.

A total of 3,300 delegates gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, for the 33rd Annual Congress of the EAO. Organised in partnership with the Brazilian Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry (SOBRAPI), the congress took place from 24 to 26 September 2026.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Delivering Health and Predictability: Shaping the Future of Patient Care". Over three days, the scientific programme featured a comprehensive series of plenary lectures and parallel sessions presented by more than 100 distinguished speakers from 20 countries. Discussions explored innovative and evidence-based approaches to improving patient health, optimising clinical outcomes and enhancing predictability across surgical, prosthetic and peri-implant treatment protocols.

Collaboration, practical education and leadership

In addition to providing a platform for the dissemination of high-quality scientific and clinical content, the congress offered an extensive programme of social and networking events. Delegates also had numerous opportunities to engage directly with speakers, industry partners and exhibitors, encouraging professional collaboration and the exchange of expertise.

A particular highlight was the hands-on workshop "My First Implant", organised by the EAO Junior Committee. Designed for clinicians with limited experience in implant dentistry, the workshop introduced participants to the biological principles underpinning osseointegration,


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evidence-based surgical protocols and contemporary prosthetic strategies. Under expert supervision, participants were also able to gain practical experience with a range of implant systems.

During the EAO General Assembly, Prof. Irena Sailer of Switzerland was inaugurated as the Association's 24th president.

Recognising excellence in research and education

The recognition and promotion of excellence in scientific research remain central to the EAO Congress. Dedicated research sessions provided the authors of the highest-rated abstracts with an opportunity to present their findings to an international audience of clinicians, academics and researchers.

Awards were presented across several categories, recognising outstanding contributions to basic, clinical and translational research, as well as innovation and clinical video production:

- Satar Yousefiasl, Norway—European Prize for Basic Research in Implant Dentistry
- Xinbo Yu, China—European Prize for Clinical Research (Surgery)
- Carina Boven, the Netherlands—European Prize for Clinical Research (Prosthetics)
- Maria José Bendek, Colombia—European Prize for Clinical Research (Peri-implant Biology)
- Milda Vitosyte, Lithuania—European Prize for Clinical Innovations in Implant Dentistry
- Jun Li, China—European Prize for Clinical Video on Implant Dentistry

The awards ceremony also celebrated important achievements in postgraduate education and professional development. Eight dentists were awarded the EAO Certificate in Implant Dentistry, while the 2026 cohort of the Master Diploma in Implant Dentistry graduated, with 17 clinicians receiving their diplomas.

Finally, Lino Esteve Colomina received the EAO Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his significant contribution to the EAO Congress Scientific Report. Initiated by Lino and his colleagues in 2015, the report has since been published annually and has become an important record of the scientific advances, clinical insights and key discussions presented at each congress.

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