

# On the test bench: Concepts for implantology

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**Fig. 1** Prof. Dr Herbert Deppe, newly elected DGZI President, and Dr Roland Hille, DGZI Congress-President.

„Celebrating the 44<sup>th</sup> annual congress of a scientific society is in itself a special event—if one can additionally choose the beautiful scenery of a Rhine metropolis, an extraordinary combination is developed!“—Using these words, Prof. Dr Roland Hille, vice-president of the German Society for Oral Implantology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahnärztliche Implantologie, DGZI), who was also congress-president, hits the point.

Not only the lucky number and the attractive location were special: On 26 and 27 September, both congress days were packed with high-demanding lectures, workshops, top-class speakers from Germany and abroad as well as partly controversial discussions. The event was held under the motto

“Nothing new? Concepts in implantology”, with more than 500 participants, that found their way to Düsseldorf.

Another highlight of the event was the members' assembly integrated into the annual congress. On this occasion, Prof. Dr Herbert Deppe (Munich) was elected new president of the DGZI. The experienced implantologist, researcher and university teacher is the successor of Prof. Heiner Weber (Tübingen).

## Discovering commonalities

For many years now, commonalities between implantology and laser dentistry are reported, especially when it comes to the establishment of private practices—also against the resistance of the universities. In view of this, a joint congress of the two societies DGZI and DGL (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Laserzahnheilkunde e.V.) was perfectly logical. With this, the societies had the opportunity to demonstrate their solidarity and furthermore show important intersections between implantology and laser dentistry.

At the end of the congress, DGL president Prof. Dr Norbert Gutknecht stated: “Despite the connection we are having for many years now as well as having



[PICTURE: © OLIVER HOFFMANN]

done a lot of jointly and successful projects in the past, I am particularly impressed of how much we can still learn from each other!"

### Education

Already in 2012, the DGZI launched its initiative "Quality-oriented Implantology", which has caused a lot of attention in the dental and general public. Continuing this initiative, the DGZI has placed one of its main focal points on the implantological education in the past years. This does not only address implantological beginners but also experienced implantologists.

This theme was also dominant in different activities that were organised by the DGZI throughout the year and had also an influence on the annual congress, the DGZI curricula, the society's public relation as well as on activities of the society's study groups.

### Dental medicine—dental technique

"Activating the interface 'dental medicine—dental technique' is a matter of personal importance for the DGZI!" With this clear statement, Christian Müller, a master dental technician from Freiburg/



**Fig. 2** \_DGZI Board: (from left) Dr Valentin, Dr Bach, Prof. Dr Deppe, Dr Hille and Dr Vollmer.

**Fig. 3** \_The scientific programme attracted a lot of participants.

**Fig. 4** \_Dr Rolf Vollmer and his wife Dr Martina Vollmer at the DGZI booth.

**Fig. 5** \_During the breaks, there was a lot of time for collegial exchange.





**Fig. 6** (middle, from left) Dr Kobayashi, Dr Moriyama and Dr Kléncke were awarded for completing the DGZI educational programme "Specialist Implantology".

**Fig. 7** Prof. (CAI) Dr Roland Hille meets with Claudia Lindemann from the congress main sponsor OT medical.

**Fig. 8** Practical training during the congress workshops.

Breisgau, joined the DGZI board as the first non-dentist two years ago. An eloquent sign of this cooperation is the "Curriculum implant prostheses" that the DGZI carries out with the Fundamental GmbH and its maker Klaus Osten. Thus, this interface is an essential part of each congress in the form of the "Main Podium Special—Prostheses". Under the lead of Chairmen Prof. Dr Guido Heydecke (Hamburg) und PD Dr Friedhelm Heinemann (former DGZI president), six top-class presentations were given.

Master dental technician Joachim Maier presented the controversial topic "Full ceramics on implants" and demonstrated the reason for complications that often occur with this new material—which is wrong in his point of view. Joachim Maier rather pointed out that all forms of full-ceramic super structures have proven to be effective—in case

one knows the materials limitation and is able to control its machining. Indeed, consequent selection criteria, a good diagnosis and a close cooperation between dental technician and dentist are needed. Given these criteria, "zirconium oxide is working over many years!", Maier stated. Dr Kay Vietor followed this statement seamlessly with his presentation on "monolithic implant restorations with zirconium abutments". The ITI fellow could draw a positive summary after seven years of practical experience.

The prosthetic aspect was also present in the scientific programme on Saturday. Hereby, the presentation by Dr Julia Wittneben (Switzerland) is worth mentioning. In her lecture, Dr Wittneben spoke about her decision-making on the question "screwed or cemented super construction". In the last years, cemented crowns and bridges placed on implants dominated the fixed implant prostheses. Critical voices on this topic have been raised regarding the risks of a peri-implantitis caused by remaining cements ("cementitis"). During her lecture, Dr Wittneben could convincingly demonstrate the legitimacy of both procedures.

Prof. Florian Beurer, who is teaching at the university in Munich, spoke about a prosthetic topic, too: Aesthetics on implants. Normally, this issue is assigned to a good planning and surgery. Prof. Beurer pointed out a new aspect which is the influence of the used materials. In using relative new options that offer current materials as zirconium oxide on super constructions and mesial structures, dental restorations can be carried out which seemed inconceivable a few years ago.

## International exchange and networking

In addition to the focus on established practices, the international networking belongs to one cornerstone of the DGZI's philosophy. For many years now, close relationships exist to friendly associated societies in North America, Japan and the Arabian area. Colleagues from abroad are always present at the DGZI congresses and actively participate in the scientific programme. With this, another tradition—the "International Podium"—is established, which is an inherent part of the annual congresses.

The first speaker at this years International Podium was Prof. Dr Rolf Vollmer, vice-president and treasurer of the DGZI, who is responsible for the societys successful "foreign policy". In his presentation, Prof. Dr Vollmer spoke about the new high-performance plastic PEEK that can be used for many indications in the area of implantology. "The potency

of this new material in our scientific field is not yet fully understood", the DGZI vice stated. Prof Dr Vollmer is expecting an expansion of the PEEK-use in dental medicine and especially in implantology.

Prof. Dr Suheil Boutros (USA), Dr Mario Rodriguez (Mexico) and Prof. Dr Mazen Tamimi (Jordan) spoke about surgical topics. In his presentation, Prof. Dr Boutros discussed controlled bone-splitting as a real alternative to complex, expensive and with a higher morbidity associated augmentation procedures. In contrast, his colleague from Jordan, Prof. Dr Tamimi, pointed out the importance of implant key positions and especially a good diagnosis as basis for a stringent planning. Dr Wolf Ulrich Mehmke supported this demand in his lecture. The Mexican speaker Dr Rodriguez gave a comprehensive and systematic overview about aspects of the biological and functional integration of implants.

### Intensive discussion

"We can also have disputes in the DGZI. But if we are disputing, it is always constructive." The quote of the newly elected president Prof. Dr Deppe was fully met by this years Podium "DGZI controversial". After two talks by Dr Dr Manfred Nilius who is a proponent of the digital diagnosis and value chain, and Prof. Dr Dipl.-Ing. Ernst-Jürgen Richter who supports analogous implantology, the two speakers discussed about benefits of both approaches for patient and handler.

The discussion "Stone Age Implantology versus Computer Games" was moderated by Dr Bach. Both speakers, Dr Dr Nilius and Prof. Dr Richter, could convincingly prove the legitimacy for both concepts. Despite their countless differences, the speakers agreed that future generations of dentists have a clear affinity towards new digital procedures and know how to successfully implement them in their daily practice.

### Implantological diversity

At his opening greeting, Prof. Dr Hille referred to the importance of an intensive exchange of opinions, experiences and scientific knowledge. The times when scientific knowledge was exclusively gained by universities has long since passed. This was impressively proved by the "Corporate Podium". Whether new procedures (as nitrous oxide, augmentation with human bone blocks, one- or multi-piece ceramic implants and interim restorations) or proven concepts (as restorations of jaws with extreme atrophy)—the Corporate Podium included many practice-relevant insights and take-home messages.



At the end of the two-day congress, all participants agreed that the event was a whole success. The date for the upcoming meeting is settled already: On 2 and 3 October 2015, the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the DGZI will take place in Wiesbaden.

**Fig. 9** Dr Bach moderated the debate "DGZI controversial".

**Fig. 10** Dr Dr Nilius (left) and Prof. Dr Richter (right) discussed about the benefits of digital and analogous implantology.

**Fig. 11** Focus on international networking: Colleagues from Japan participated at the DGZI congress as well.

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