

2017 AO Annual Meeting Orlando

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On behalf of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, Program Committee Chair Dr Jeffrey Ganeles and the president Dr Alan Pollack welcomed more than 2,500 attendees to Orlando and the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration (AO). As part of his remarks, Dr Pollack also provided his presidential address in which he stated, "Much of the 'take-away' from these meetings derives from sharing ideas and problems with colleagues. Sitting next to someone in the lecture halls who may practice across the country or across the globe, in a different practice setting and performing procedures that you don't, or wouldn't do yourself offers the opportunity to open your mind to different perspectives and share disparate experiences."

This year's event was inspired by author Jim Collins, who's book titled, "Good to Great®" described how companies transition from being good companies to great companies. Dr Jeffrey Ganeles pointed out that this drive for constant improvement envelopes our field in implant dentistry and captures the enthusiasm of the synergistic partnership. To quote from the last paragraph of the book: "When all these pieces come together, not only does your work move towards greatness, but so does your life. For, in the end, it is impossible to have a great life unless it is a meaningful

life. And it is very difficult to have a meaningful life without meaningful work." On that note, Dr Ganeles concluded: "On behalf of the committee, I hope you are amazed and frustrated, challenged and stimulated and overwhelmingly motivated by our meeting."

Before the Annual Meeting officially kicked off, many educational opportunities were available. Wednesday, 15 March, two unique and fascinating presentations on dental radiology and cellular and biomechanical aspects of osseointegration were given by experts particularly useful to fulfill academic requirements for the AO Certificate Program.

Thursday morning brought a strong Corporate Forum. Then the Opening Symposium on Thursday afternoon featured keynote speaker Dr Jill Helms, followed by lectures from five well-known international experts. Friday, 17 March began at 7:00 am with an innovative new session called "Business of Implant Dentistry—SWOT Analysis of Implant Dental Care Delivery Models". Its speakers represented traditional referral based practices. Parallel this session, there were the Masters sessions presented by Drs Anthony Sclar, Lawrence Brecht, Thomas Taylor, HP Weber, Mauricio Araujo, Stephen Parel and Tiziano Testori.

Fig. 1: Dr Mazen Tamimi (middle) at the ACTEON exhibition booth.

Fig. 2: Dr Mario Rodrigues (left) and Dr Rainer Valentin.

Fig. 3: Dr Suheil Boutros.

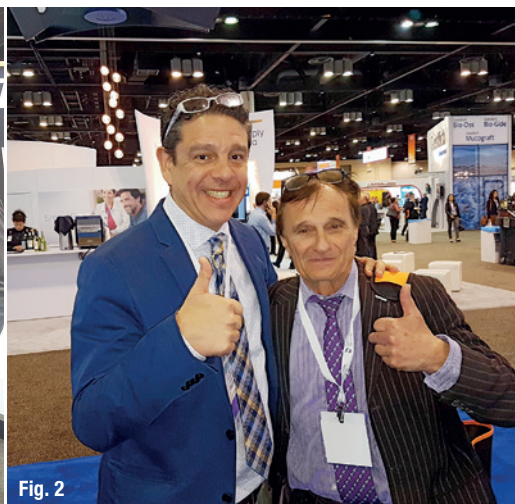




Fig. 4

Friday was continued with surgical and restorative tracks featuring leading clinicians as well as lesser known, creative rising stars who discussed different aspects of implant dentistry ranging from surgical strategies and techniques to complications management to treatment flow, digital dentistry, materials, science and future trends. In the surgical track, there was a session devoted to a 2017 update of the landmark 1997 AO Sinus Consensus Conference featuring Drs Alan Herford, Craig Misch, Paul Fugazzotto and Eric Dierks. Drs Michael Block, Vince Iacono and Ole Jensen coordinated a special session on sinus grafting, updating the original AO consensus conference from 20 years ago.

Following AO's tradition of supporting research and innovation, the oral clinical research abstract session was held Friday morning and the Oral Scientific and Clinical Innovations sessions were presented Friday afternoon. Another session focused on managing anterior aesthetics in addition to others concentrating on managing biologic complications, "New Concepts and Materials for Site Development" and "Image Guidance and Digital Workflow for Planning and Treatment." On Friday evening, Dr Alan Pollack hosted the President's Reception at the Latin-themed Mango's Tropical Café.

Saturday's main program returned to the "Good to Great®" refrain as well, looking toward future advances in all aspects of the dental implantology field. Topics included new technologies, short implants, imaging, digital planning and guided treatment, socket management and site redevelopment. The multidisciplinary approach was particularly evident in the afternoon team presentations, where internationally renowned groups illustrated their evaluation and treatment methods to elegantly tackle difficult patient problems.

Saturday also offered full-day programs for both Allied Staff Professionals and Dental Laboratory Technicians. In the afternoon, an innovative and enjoyable group completed the meeting with "Good to Great®: Optimizing the Patient Experience with Ideal Team Interaction." This panel was comprised of a surgeon, a restorative dentist, a laboratory technician and industry representatives including manufacturers and financing, who provided their input on creating great patient experiences in implant dentistry. It was obvious that the Program Committee worked hard to provide an innovative, balanced, fascinating program that would be clinically relevant. A fantastic blend of "veteran" speakers with undiscovered rising stars was elected covering both traditional subjects as well as new topics that will demand to be considered as we are heading into this next era of dental implant therapy.

DGZI Germany was represented by Vice President and Treasurer Dr Rolf Vollmer and members of the board Dr Rainer Valentin and Dr Mazen Tamimi, who is also the international representative of the DGZI in Jordania.

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Fig. 4: Dr Mazen Tamimi, Dr Rolf Vollmer, Dr Stephen Wheeler and wife, Dr Edward Sevetz and wife and Dr Rainer Valentin (from the left).

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About the society

