

Does **biology** **still** matter?



Prof. (CAI) Dr Roland Hille

On 29 and 30 September 2017, the German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI) and dental implant professionals will meet for the 47th International Annual Congress in Berlin, Germany. At the heart of the two day congress stands the question of "Does biology still matter?". Our thoughts and actions today are increasingly defined by "higher, faster, further". But is this really the best and safest treatment strategy for our patients or would it not be more effective to combine implantology and biology in order to reach a successful treatment outcome? Various treatment strategies have already been tried and proven in practice and are science-based and largely foreseeable. Practitioners should follow and strive for those examples, particularly when entering implantology for the very first time. Because the challenges in this field are far from small. Our patients' wishes and expectations are often impossible to meet from a biological, physiological and hence aesthetic point of view.

In addition, this year's update comprises the field of implantological prosthetics. Intensive discussions will focus here on the question of to what extent the conventionally practiced workflow is still contemporary. Or has the digital workflow already taken over the lead? In this light, it is crucial to examine the qualitative output and the preconditions that are required in order to ensure an adequate and standardised implementation. Furthermore, another important point of discussion will be the multi-morbidity of our patients with regards to extensive medication prescriptions. In this context, dentists are required to look outside their respective treatment areas and recognise the complexity of their patients' full clinical pictures. This, in turn, enables practitioners to fully assess possible risks involved in performing extensive surgical interventions. However, equally important for the implant success are the implant's biomechanics and the implant material, whether titan or ceramic is used. Which indication requires which implant, and what foreseeable difficulties might arise for the practitioner, based on those decisions, has also to be taken into account. Failure discussions, including identifying possible causes of the problem, will determine the future story of success.

Please come and join our panel discussion "DGZI kontrovers". Two experienced university professors will be talking about current scientific evidence and their practical experiences in using short implants while pursuing the question "Are shorties the all-purpose weapon in implantology?". High-quality training and celebrating are hallmarks of the DGZI! Therefore, on Friday we will celebrate as part of the legendary live show "Stars in Concert" and plunge into the sparkling world of show business. Excitement guaranteed!

And last but not least, Berlin is calling. The capital is always worth a visit and so are the practice-oriented international congresses of the DGZI!

Warm regards

Prof. (CAI) Dr Roland Hille
Vice President of the DGZI