



Fig. 1: Landmark of Rotterdam: The Erasmus Bridge also called the Swan at the Nieuwe Maas River.

Oral Reconstruction Global Symposium 2018

Katharina Rühling, Germany

1,200 participants of 39 countries attended the Oral Reconstruction Global Symposium 2018 in Rotterdam from 26 to 28 April. The three-day event organised by the Oral Reconstruction Foundation (formerly CAMLOG Foundation) chaired by Prof. Dr Irena Sailer (Switzerland) and Dr Ben Derksen (Netherlands) was dedicated to the theme “The Future of the Art of Implant Dentistry”. 57 speakers and experts of 12 nations shared their experience and expertise in the workshop and presentation sessions. Further, all attendees had the possibility to get up to date with the newest product developments at the industry exposition with 21 exhibitors.

Internationality could be felt and heard in all elements of the symposium—while the symposium language was English, simultaneous translations into Japanese, German, Spanish, French and Italian were also available for the participants. The 12 offered workshops concerning topics like 3-D implant planning, the COMFOUR concept and CONELOG implant system (both CAMLOG), two-piece ceramic implants and soft-tissue augmentation were also tailored for an international audience—

some even being offered in German and Spanish. Participants benefitted of hands-on practical experience and could also earn CE credits.

On Friday the presentation part of the symposium started with an atmospheric opening ceremony staging an illuminated dance performance followed by a warm welcome of the organising committee. A further cultural highlight of the programme was the King's Day party on Friday night inspired by the Dutch holiday in honour of the king.

According to the symposium theme the eight podium sessions combined diverse current topics of both latest scientific research findings and practical experience in the field of implantology. Each session included presentations of at least three specialists sharing their insights on issues like soft-tissue management around dental implants, treatment and restorative concepts, digital workflow in implant dentistry and ceramic implants. The presentations were supported by individual case experience visualised with picture and video sequences.

During the time for discussion following each session of expert presentations all participants had the opportunity to get more information and contribute their own input and experience in direct exchange with the specialists. This exchange was especially interactive thanks to the Insights Dental App—developed by Medical Insights and the Oral Reconstruction Foundation—which was used to submit all questions digitally in real time during the presentations, also enabling peer-to-peer knowledge exchange in the developing community. It further serves as a constantly updated database for “knowledge on demand” which can also be used for future congresses and educational events.

The usage of autologous tissue grafts as a successful alternative to GBR in order to achieve a patient-friendly minimally-invasive grafting was one of the main messages of the presentation session on soft-tissue management. The “Restorative concepts” session especially focused on the changing population structures with the growing senior generation and thus the necessity to adapt treatment concepts and methods to the changing needs. Dr Claudio Cacaci (Germany) especially highlighted the importance of a continuous dental hygienic specialist control and care following implantological reconstructive treatment of so-called older seniors as age-related health issues like e.g. glaucoma, arthritis or dementia decrease their ability of proper cleaning and thus endanger implant stability and preservation. Continuing digitalisation and the challenges and options it creates for the implantological practice was also one of the focal points of the programme. Dr Tabea Flügge (Germany) dedicated her presentation to the question “Full digital workflow in dentistry—is it ready for us?” and especially highlighted the importance of data acquisition as the basis for using digital workflows and CAD/CAM processes. Dr Luca Cordaro (Italy) further highlighted a challenge digitalisation generates for practitioners as today patients do not come to the dentist looking for a

solution but instead have already found an idea or treatment solution on the internet assuming it to be the best option thus demanding its implementation.

One of the main topics of the event which stimulated a very lively interaction between the auditorium and the main podium was dedicated to the question “Are ceramic implants an alternative to titanium?”. Moderator Prof. Dr Frank Schwarz further headlined the three following presentations by questioning if we are looking at a current hype or possibly a flop. The three international speakers PD Dr Daniel S. Thoma (Switzerland), Dr Vladimir Kokovic (United Arab Emirates) and Dr Frank Maier (Germany) emphasised new research findings and improved material characteristics compared to formerly known ceramic implants, and further presented their preferred treatment application especially in partial reconstructions as well as their experience with the CERALOG (CAMLOG) system. Titanium intolerance and aesthetic choices are among the main reasons for patients to choose ceramic implants.

The last session “Problems, complications and failures—what can we learn from them?” kept the attention level up until the last minute on Saturday afternoon. In this interactive presentation method three practitioners each presented an especially challenging case with its individual characteristics and diagnostics to an expert jury of seven international specialists who then had the opportunity to give their treatment advice. In the next step the speaker presented the treatment solution he applied and the expert jury again had the possibility to comment and advise—generally agreeing or even congratulating the colleague on his success.

Everybody can already be looking forward to the Oral Reconstruction Global Symposium 2020 in New York City. For more information visit: www.orfoundation.org.



Fig. 2

Fig. 2: International expert jury during the “Problems, complications and failures—what can we learn from them?” session.