

1st Future Congress sets **new standards**

The DGZI is the most traditional European expert association of dental implantology. Right from the start, the association has provided decisive impulses without which modern implant dentistry as one of the absolute trend disciplines of modern dentistry would not be conceivable today. Today, the field of dental implantology undergoes a development in the interplay of practitioners, universities and industry, which was almost unimaginable. In this context, it is important for the DGZI to stay up to date and constantly face the new challenges of a rapidly developing training landscape. Thus, not only the competition has become stronger, but also the members of the DGZI, the participants in the DGZI congresses and curricula meanwhile set different premises. Efficiency, practical utility and a varied scientific programme are more and more in the spotlight today.

At a general meeting held prior to the congress, new DGZI board members were elected. By a large majority, the Cologne-based dentist Dr Arzu Tuna was elected as Second Vice President. Her focus is on promoting young researchers and integrating young colleagues into the DGZI. Prior to her election as a board mem-

ber, Dr Tuna has worked as member of the jury at both the DGZI Implant Dentistry Award 2018 and the Poster Award, which were presented within the context of the Digital Poster Presentation at the 1st Future Congress. By electing dental technician Oliver Beckman as new assessor at the board and, thus, including a young and engaged in the work of the association, the DGZI was highlighting dental competence once again. In addition, the association aims to put an increasingly strong focus on the collaboration between dentists and dental technicians in the future.

From 28 to 29 September, the DGZI was hosting their 1st Future Congress in Düsseldorf, Germany. The event was held under the motto "Visions in Implantology" and its overriding aim was to offer new approaches with a clear eye on the future. Since there is a decrease in the number of participants at the congresses of the well-established implantology expert associations, the DGZI had to come up with something fresh and unique: 250 dental participants and 120 practice employees were experiencing a forward-looking congress that was both raising and answering new questions, and pointing to new ap-





Fig. 1

Fig. 1: The DGZI board renewing itself. From left: the recently elected assessor Oliver Beckman and the new Second Vice President Dr Arzu Tuna, Dr Rainer Valentin, Dr Georg Bach and Dr Rolf Vollmer. **Fig. 2:** The table clinics, which were occupied up to the last seat.

proaches in interaction with participants, speakers and industry representatives. The high demands on content were reflected in an entirely new organisational concept. To sharpen its profile as practical and application-oriented event, the congress was no longer split into separate speaking stages, workshops and side programmes. Instead, it was divided into a so-called industry day on Friday, featuring strategy talks, live-surgery

broadcasts and table clinics, and a science-oriented Saturday. This setup guaranteed that individual demands—especially from implantologists—were met and satisfied. Both a surgical treatment and a tutorial held in the Competence Centres of Leipzig and Bad Oeynhausen were broadcasted live using a fascinating multi-channel streaming technology, which showcased the direct implementation of a digital workflow into the



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Fig. 3: The 1st Future Congress of the DGZI aimed to raise new questions.

daily practice. Thus, DGZI members abroad, who were not able to attend the congress in Düsseldorf, had the unique opportunity to experience the work of their renowned colleagues. In doing that, the DGZI was breaking new ground once again. By performing a surgery on the topic of “The iSy way—one click, one scan, one shift. Minimisation as the key to success”, for instance, the surgeon trio of Dr Thomas Barth, Christian Barth and Dr Stefan Ulrici were showing that a minimalist approach can be effectively applied to various aspects of the dental practice—from surgical protocols to the digital workflow. Moreover, Dr Jochen Tunkel from Bad Oeynhausen

contributed to the programme by presenting flawlessly documented patient cases and sharing his experiences regarding the peel technique on Friday morning. Dr Tunkel was excellently presenting explaining the medical procedure, with his main focus being on its safe and long-term stable application.

Instead of a parliamentary seating facing the stage, there were round tables resembling a banquet seating, which was an unusual sight. At these tables, each of the exhibiting companies gave demonstrations on a wide variety of different special topics and the accompanying

Fig. 4: The Japanese delegation visiting the congress, as every year, completing the expert examination.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Fig. 5: The operation performed by Dr Jochen Tunkel was streamed live, supported by Straumann.

discussions proved to be very insightful. This new format was accepted very well by both the participants, as well as the dental exhibitors.

Both the table clinics and the exhibition concept, which were a spatially integral part of the programme, gave rise to the significance of the industry. By using modern tools such as the Future Podium, innovative presentation techniques or interactive solutions, the congress aimed to resemble a congress trade fair. In addition, Digital Poster Presentations (DPP) were yet another highlight of the event: On both congress days, internet-based

and interactive DPP were held in the DPP Lounge, right in front of the conference hall, with the posters also being available on mobile devices. The working group headed by Dr Dr Ralf Smeets proved particularly diligent and successful: The Hamburg-based team was awarded first, second and third place.

With a catering concept based on “flying services” and without considerable breaks between lectures, live surgeries and table clinics, participants, speakers and industry representatives were given significantly more time and space to communicate with each other.

Fig. 6: Dr Dr Ralf Smeets presenting his digital poster.



Fig. 6

The goals of this modification were future orientation, organisational modernity, content attractiveness and a new way of presenting perspectives in order to reach a new level of interaction from the different perspectives of science, practice and industry. The 1st Future Congress in Dental Implantology was in particular addressing the question of what implantology will look like in five or maybe ten years. Ultimately, apart from scientific and technological aspects, it was also about strategic questions with regard to the implantological practice of the future. In Düsseldorf, the DGZI once again proved its importance and attraction, also in view of the 50th anniversary of its foundation, which is due to happen in 2020. The 2nd Future Congress will be held under the theme “Perio-Implantology: Implants, Bone and Tissue” from 4 to 5 October 2019 in Munich, Germany.

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