



New frontiers in metal-free implant dentistry

The 8th Annual Congress of the International Academy of Ceramic Implantology (IAOCI) took place this past February in Tampa, Florida (USA). This year's theme was "New Frontiers in Metal-Free Implant Dentistry" and one of the main purposes was to once again bring clinicians, scientists, industry leaders, manufacturers and speakers together to exchange, discuss, share knowledge and information on the recent advances that have occurred in ceramic implantology.

In response to our rapid growth and the objectives of the academy, we sought the services of a professional dental event and association management company. We had seventeen exhibitors, eight of which were ceramic implant manufacturers; this is a world first in any implant meeting. We were excited about being able to facilitate and provide a business-to-business networking platform during this event where OEM ceramic manufacturers were matched with and able to come to agreements with businesses looking to develop or launch their own line of ceramic implants in the near future.

The event was a success as we reached our goal to provide a programme that was a good balance of scientific research and evidence, as well as clinical experiences from speakers lecturing on over ten different types of ceramic implants. This year we had our highest attendance ever with 130 dentists in attendance from four continents. They represented 27 countries, 38 US states including Hawaii. For the first time we were able to offer two-way simultaneous translation of the entire congress into English and Spanish. There was also great interest from exhibitors and sponsors as we surpassed our attendance goals; we even had to limit the number of exhibitors due to the limited

space available. Relevant topics such as ceramic implant surface modification for optimal osseointegration, biological protocols to enhance the success and fast osseointegration of ceramic implants and macroscopic implant design concepts were expertly and extensively discussed.

Our 9th Congress in 2020 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from 12 to 14 March 2020. One of our objectives is to further increase our ever-growing attendance and membership, introduce a metal-free implantology focused table clinics session and competition to our event. We want our members and others to come in and present their work and research. We are reaching out to young clinicians, residents, dental students and all that are interested to come and present their scientific and clinical projects. The Academy is growing very fast with a broad vision and objective; therefore, we would like to invite more dentists to become members, actively participate in the life, activities and growth of the IAOCI. As we witness a positive and growing interest in ceramic implants, we will be launching international chapters in 2019 and beyond in order to be able to serve and assist our members and supporters outside of North America. Please visit our website www.iaoci.com to see more information on our activities and upcoming events.

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