

The future of implantology within grasp in Munich

Dr Georg Bach, Germany

“People who have visions should go see a doctor,” former Chancellor of Germany Helmut Schmidt once said. The German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI) begs to differ: “Our vision for the next two days is to present oral implantology not as it is today, but as it will be.” With this opening statement, DGZI congress chairman Dr Georg Bach kicked off the 49th DGZI international annual congress, which was held as the 2nd Future Congress for Dental Implantology on 4 and 5 October in Munich. With 50 speakers and an attending audience of about 350, the congress was a great success. It featured 75 table clinics, two live-streamed surgeries, as well as a much-noticed digital poster presentation on the Friday, and 12 lectures by renowned speakers, rounded off with courses for the practice staff and a huge industry exhibition by 26 selected partners, on the Saturday. In its 49th year, the dental expert society has continued to break new ground with this annual event in terms of its future orientation, organisational modernity, attractive content and unique structure, and the fresh points of view that are presented. “Our goal is to achieve a reorientation with a

great focus on quality,” said DGZI Vice President Dr Rolf Vollmer. DGZI outgoing President Prof. Herbert Deppe added: “The great feedback from our colleagues shows us that we are on the right track.”

Future podium

In the three lectures held on Friday morning, a clear picture of prospective implantology was painted. According to Dr Bach, who was appointed new DGZI President at the general meeting held one day ahead of the congress, the objective was to tackle questions like, what will implantology look like in ten years from now, what technologies will be relevant, and what medical and financial challenges will the implant practice have to meet? The invitation of the German left-wing politician Dr Gregor Gysi as a speaker had caused quite a stir in the run-up to the congress. The Bundestag member asserted that “private practices and the free choice of a dentist are precious assets that must be preserved” and said that we are currently in times of upheaval and new approaches to important topics are needed. After Dr Gysi’s address,

Fig. 1: The table clinics were occupied up to the last seat.





Fig. 2

Fig. 2: The new executive board of the DGZI (from left): Dr Elmar Erpelding, Dr Uwe Ryguschik, Dr Arzu Tuna, Dr Georg Bach, Dr Rolf Vollmer, Dr Rainer Valentin, Dr Navid Salehi and DT Oliver Beckmann.

Prof. Ralf Smeets spoke about new biomaterials in hard- and soft-tissue management and implant materials and surfaces. He argued that, in dental surgery, xenogeneic, allogeneic and synthetic biomaterials and membranes are becoming increasingly important and that long-term implant success can only be achieved with a treatment concept that takes into account hard and soft tissue, prostheses, and patient- and implant-specific factors. Thereafter, Prof. Werner Götz spoke about how stem cells lead to superior implant osseointegration, even under compromised conditions. In the discussion that followed, the speakers agreed that—especially in implantology, a technically affine discipline susceptible to politically induced disturbances—one needs to stray from familiar paths if one wants to keep pace.

Live surgeries

Two live surgeries were streamed in high definition to the conference hall and online, allowing DGZI members from abroad who were unable to attend the Munich event to experience a unique insight into the work of prominent surgeons. In his surgery, Dr Conrad Kühnöl convincingly demonstrated that an approach of minimisation does not relate to surgical protocols only but to other areas of the digital workflow as well, such as digital impressions. Afterwards, Prof. Florian Stelzle showcased his concept of “Fixed third teeth in one day” in his live tutorial, placing four implants in the mandible of an 82-year-old with unsalvageable teeth that needed extraction and restoring them with a fixed denture. He explained the surgical





Fig. 3: Live surgeries were streamed in high definition to the conference hall and the Internet via multi-channel streaming.

procedure step by step with a focus on its safe application and a long-term stable treatment outcome.

Table clinics and digital poster presentations

In contrast to the customary seating facing the stage, round tables were provided for the table clinics, at which speakers from the industry partners at the event gave demonstrations on various implantological topics. The subsequent discussions and the interprofessional ex-

change were very informative. This format was once again well received by both the congress participants and the exhibiting companies. Another highlight was the Internet-based and interactive digital poster presentations, which took place on both congress days in the digital poster presentation lounge in the exhibition area directly in front of the conference hall. All posters could also be accessed online via mobile devices. The winners were chosen by DGZI Vice President Dr Arzu Tuna, and the best three were awarded prizes as part of the Saturday morning programme.

A Saturday dedicated to science

Whereas the first congress day was predominantly practice-oriented, the second one focused on scientific aspects. Renowned speakers from Germany and abroad devoted themselves to the question of what implantology in the future will look like and presented the latest trends and visions for the practice, as well as their clinical relevance. The Saturday programme offered scientific overview lectures on all relevant areas of oral implantology, such as digital implant dentistry and prosthetics, bone and tissue, as well as materials and design.

The Podium 1 talks on Saturday morning were kicked off by Prof. Hans V. Behrbohm, who argued that anyone who plans to place implants in the maxillary posterior region should also inspect the maxillary sinus of the patient in case of suspicion. He presented an endoscope set specially developed for dental and maxillofacial surgery. Afterwards, Prof. Thomas Weischer spoke about immediate implant placement in cases of apical pathology in combination with guided bone regeneration and antimicrobial photodynamic therapy. Subsequently, Prof. Peter Rammelsberg described a modified version of the classic internal sinus lift in which a targeted fracture of the maxillary sinus floor is carried out without any subsequent introduction of bone substitute material, and



Fig. 4

Fig. 4: From left: Dr Georg Bach (newly elected President of the DGZI), Prof. Ralf Smeets (accepting the Implant Dentistry Award in the name of his colleagues Dr Rico Rutkowski and Dr Peter Gehrke) and Dr Arzu Tuna (Vice President of the DGZI).



Dear authors, **thank you**
for your contributions in **2019**.

Looking forward to working with you in **2020!**

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Fig. 5: DGZI board members together with international participants of the DGZI/GBOI curricula.

he reported on the implant prognosis and bone gain thereafter. Dr Peer Kämmerer then proved in his lecture on iatrogenic mechanical bioactivation of bone metabolism that implants electrically stimulated at 20–30 Hz show significantly better osseointegration results.

In the first Podium 2 lecture, Prof. Deppe presented his findings on peri-implant health in augmented and distracted bone. He was able to prove that lasting peri-implant health in both local bone and manipulated bone—after augmentation and distraction—can be easily achieved, contrary to common belief. Afterwards, periodontics expert Prof. Adrian Kasaj spoke about soft-tissue management around teeth and implants and how to decide whether to use autologous tissue or tissue replacement material. For him, a combination of replacement materials coated with enamel matrix proteins represents a promising approach to achieving superior results in the future. In his lecture on biologisation of bone and soft tissue in dentistry, Dr Shahram Ghanaati then discussed the use of autologous blood concentrates such as platelet-rich fibrin and platelet-rich plasma in dentistry. In the last lecture of this block, Prof. Nicole B. Arweiler spoke about mastering the balancing act between thorough and gentle professional implant cleaning. According to Prof. Arweiler, the best prevention against today's scourge of peri-implantitis is through efficient prevention at home and professional cleaning and care.

As part of the Podium 3 papers, the ceramic implant pioneer Dr Karl Ulrich Volz shared his insights on zirconia implants and osteogenesis and demonstrated new possibilities with an osteoconductive and attachment-favouring material. Dr Mauro Marincola then spoke about the decision between using short implants or augmentation and provided implantological concepts for insufficient bone volume. He presented a surgical protocol that requires minimised effort and material. In his lecture on the various costs of augmentation, Prof. Dritan Turhani

described the sinus as an excellent option for avoiding augmentation. For Turhani, bone preservation has top priority. Dr Alexandra Stähli presented the results of University of Bern researchers on possibilities and limitations in the correction of soft-tissue defects around teeth and implants. According to Stähli, the absence of keratinised mucosa can promote plaque accumulation and subsequently lead to recession. The tunnel technique and connective tissue grafting, among other things, can help here, but she cautioned that not everything that works around the tooth also works around the implant.

In summary

At the Munich congress, the participants experienced an outstanding and innovative further education event. A new level of interaction was reached in terms of science, practice, politics and industry. The DGZI broke the mould again by addressing the urgent question of what implant dentistry will look like in five or even ten years from now and what the political and economic framework will be. “We are pleased to have followed this path,” said Dr Bach. Through the successful congress in Munich, the DGZI has once again proved its importance and appeal as the oldest dental expert society in Europe. All eyes are already on the DGZI's 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated in the form of the 3rd Future Congress on 6 and 7 November 2020 in Bremen in Germany—the city where the society was founded in 1970.

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