



Dr Friedhelm Heinemann  
President of DGZI

## DGZI – Innovative and International

Dear Colleagues,

Implantology is truly an international discipline. As the oldest professional implantological association in Europe, the German Society for Dental Implantology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für zahnärztliche Implantologie–DGZI e.V.) currently has more than 3,700 members worldwide. It has made such a significant contribution to the field of dentistry that implantology has become an established dental therapy that we can hardly imagine doing without. As the President of the DGZI, I am especially proud of what we have achieved over the past three years. In addition to the rapid increase in membership (1,000 new members in the last election period alone) and our various national activities, I am particularly pleased about the development of our international contact with friends and colleagues.

It has always been an important goal of our society to participate in a worldwide exchange of implantological know-how and, in this way, to also make the experience of our members accessible to the general public. The cooperation of the DGZI with professional implantological associations in the US and Europe as well as numerous associations in the Middle East reflects these activities. In the past three years, the "Arab-German Implantology Meeting" in Dubai has developed into a constant feature of continuing implantological education in this region, reaching as far as Pakistan and India. In March of next year we will once again meet colleagues and friends in Dubai, who will come from over 20 countries to exchange scientific knowledge and ideas.

Another success in the direction of internationalization was achieved with the signing of a cooperation contract with the 800-member-strong Japanese implantology association, the AIAI Academy of International Advanced Implantology, headed by President Yasuhiko Takemae, MD. I would hereby like to extend a warm greeting to all the members of this association and welcome them to our community. The aim of this non-profit cooperation is, among other things, to exchange knowledge and promote implantology research and development. Moreover, cooperation in the field of continuing education shall be strengthened with the help of existing concepts. Today, the DGZI can fall back on a worldwide network of 11,000 of its own as well as associated members, which is clear evidence of the continually increasing, partnership-based internationality of our association. This and the strong entrenchment of implantology among private-practice dentists will continue to constitute essential key features of the activities of the oldest European professional implantological association.

The 37<sup>th</sup> International Annual Congress of the DGZI will take place the weekend of October 5–6, 2007, in Düsseldorf, Germany under the theme "Implantology–Biological Principles and Technical Possibilities." Renowned international speakers from the worlds of science and practice will discuss the exceptionally complex topic with congress participants. Numerous domestic and international guests have already registered. I would be very pleased to welcome you in Düsseldorf or at one of the upcoming international meetings of the DGZI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. F. Heinemann", with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Friedhelm Heinemann