

25th Anniversary of the Academy of Osseointegration

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_Various approaches, complications among meeting highlights, different approaches to implant therapy and solutions to unexpected complications were among the highlights of the Academy of Osseointegration's 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting, March 4–6, at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort in Orlando.

It is no surprise that the German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI) took part in this year's congress in the United States of America, as the AO is the DGZI's largest affiliated association. Members of the Board Dr Rainer Valentin and Dr Rolf Vollmer as well as DGZI's international representative Dr Mazen Tamimi attended lectures and exhibitions at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort.

To start the conference the current President of the AO Vincent J. Jacono presented the congress program and noted that the Academy's mission should be the improvement of oral health. In order to be able to do so, colleagues were brought up to date about the state of the art in implantology and tissue regeneration.

The 25th anniversary annual meeting started on Thursday, March 4, with the opening symposium, "A Quarter Century of Experience: The Formula for Predictable Implant Success in the Esthetic Zone." Other AO Annual Meeting highlights included Hands-on workshop: The pre-meeting, daylong series of sessions explored how 3-D imaging and navigation technology helps providers fabricate surgical templates, generate final prosthesis and place implants more effectively as part of the "team approach" concept.

AO's 2010 Corporate Forum featured 36 manufacturer-hosted educational sessions concerning the latest research, products and developments. During the congress different options concerning implant therapies and solutions for unexpected complications were discussed in details in the main podium. Colleagues could also attend hands-on workshops and listen to the AO corporate panel.

"Treatment Approaches: Controversies in Implant Dentistry," held on Friday, March 5, and Saturday's "Unexpected Complications: Complications and Solutions," were the key pillars of the meeting's overall



theme, "The Formula for Predictable Implant Success."

Approaches, controversies Friday's implant therapy program gathered an international roster of experts to review the latest treatments and materials through an evidence-based approach. Saturday's session on complications explored why problems occur, how to treat them and what we can do to prevent them.

"Two-Track" scientific program

The surgical track explored "Surgical Procedures to enhance implant success in the Esthetic Zone." The restorative track, "Where, When, Why and How," covered prosthetic considerations for restoring angled or tilted implants; endodontics vs. implants and early predictors for biological and technical complications.

Round table clinics

Twelve separate sessions offered attendees the opportunity to discuss diverse topics.

Limited attendance lectures

Increased interaction between annual meeting attendees and world-class clinicians on a wide range of topics.

Allied staff program

The annual meeting's allied staff program offered concurrent sessions designed for dental lab technicians and hygienists.

In addition, colleagues from all over the world exhibited more than 250 posters throughout the conference. One full day was dedicated to surgical problems in the esthetic zone as well as to the types of esthetic problems prosthodontists have to deal with. The prosthetic handling of angulated placed implants, biological and technical complications, and endodontics, which completes against implants, were discussed in particular. Altogether this was a very successful congress with more than 2000 participants. Like every year, DGZI was invited to the International

Affiliates Committee on Saturday afternoon, an event also attended by delegations from Canada, Japan, England and Italy. The current President Iacono asked all participants to contribute ideas concerning future cooperation amongst affiliates.

The participants agreed on the fact that, in these times of globalization, no single country should be secluded from the global community. However, the situation in other countries may nonetheless be extremely different. One point for example is the language barrier of the Japanese colleagues. The so called Annual Business Meeting took place after the meeting of the international affiliates. The new President Dr. Peter Moy delivered his inaugural speech, and he thanked all speakers and representatives of affiliated associations, especially those who came from far away, for their attendance.

"The 2010 meeting served as a celebration of everything we have learned in the past 25 years, and how that knowledge can be applied for the benefit of our patients today," Annual Meeting Committee Chair Dr Stuart Froum, New York, N.Y., explained.

The next AO congresses will be held in Washington, DC from March 3–5, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona from March 1–3, 2012, in Tampa, Florida from March 7–9, 2013, and in Seattle, Washington from March 6–8, 2014. All colleagues interested in attending one of those meetings together with us, should contact the DGZI office in Düsseldorf for further details.

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