

Implantology in Cologne

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The 41st International Annual Congress of the German Association of Dental Implantology (DGZI) took place in Cologne the weekend of September 30 to October 1, 2011. Over both congress days we welcomed up to 450 participants coming from all over Germany, Middle East, and Japan.

This year's congress was just as well received as other previous and successful DGZI congresses. DGZI president, Prof Dr Dr Frank Palm, and the scientific organizer of this year's congress, Dr Roland Hille, commented that it was DGZI's aim to inspire colleagues with up-to-date expert information and practical tips about implantology. The theme of "Implantology today—requirements, possibilities and expectations" allowed for an especially broad array of scientific lectures. Within the frame of a very complex scientific programme, renowned speakers from home and abroad presented current trends and topics on almost the whole range of modern implantol-

ogy. DGZI, the oldest European implantological association, kept to its goal of surprising the audience with expert speakers who are the best in their fields.

What should and what must be done?

A current topic which will no doubt continue to be debated in future discussions of dental practice was highlighted in the podium discussion "Digital implantology—What should and what must be done?" The combining of navigated implantology and intraoral digital impression (direct data capturing) with digital workflow is currently an issue in the spotlight for dentists and dental technicians as well as patients. "The future of dental medicine is more exciting than it has been ever before", says Dr





Hille. "The development potential of industries seems to be endless, and expectations and technical desires of patients are unlimited. DGZI sees its role as a companion on the way to future—but nevertheless we do not lose sight of technologies' suitability for practical use."

From theory to practice

From the very start of the congress a great range of workshops and hands-on courses were offered for practical exercises. The participants could become familiar in detail with the current developments concerning implants, bone substitutes and membranes, as well as with diagnosis, navigation and CAD/CAM technologies.

Especially during this IDS year, the abundance of new products and technologies meant that much more information was required. Collegial interchanges coupled with some helpful tips were of very special importance.

Thanks to the many exhibitors who enabled direct contact to industries, participants had access to products and their practical applications.

In addition to the programme for dentists there was an accompanying programme for technical implantology assistance staff. At the top of their agenda were e.g. tooth decay and periodontitis prophylaxis, communication with patients and hygiene in the dental practice.

The 42nd Annual Congress of the DGZI will be held in Hamburg, Germany, from October 5 until October 6, 2012.

