



50 Years of clinical osseointegration

Author Georg Isbaner

More than 2,500 participants attended the 24th EAO Annual Congress at Stockholm, Sweden, and were given an update on the state-of-the-art of clinical osseointegration by a wide range of symposia, workshops and poster presentations. This year's congress focused on the work of late Prof. Per-Ingvar Brånemark as well as other pioneers of dental implantology. The Swedish doctor and scientist was renowned for paving the way of modern implantology with his ground-breaking discovery of the integration of artificial materials such as titanium in human bone tissue.

50 years of experience with osseointegrated implants", states Prof. Björn Klinge, scientific leader of the congress committee. EAO has always been aiming at processing and communicating scientific data for practice-oriented implant therapy. That is why its organisers have asked more than 50 experts from Sweden and abroad to present their works and discuss the latest scientific findings and clinical concepts in implantology. In addition, new procedures and techniques were introduced at various parallel symposia, which were supported by the leading dental companies. The most up-to-date products, including new implants and solutions for an improved implant treatment, also formed a major focal point of the event. All in all, almost 100 dental companies took part in the Stockholm congress.

Fig. 1 More than 2,500 participants took part in this year's EAO Congress in Stockholm.

Fig. 2 Prof. emeritus Thomas Albrektsson, Sweden, gave a speech on the scientific works of Prof. Per-Ingvar Brånemark.

For this reason, a special session on the first congress day was dedicated to the topic "50 Years of Clinical Osseointegration". "Our daily working routine is based on





Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Pioneers of modern implantology

None other than Prof. emeritus Tomas Albrektsson, long-time partner of Per-Ingvar Brånemark, talked about the Swedish implant pioneer's achievements. Already in 1969, Brånemark introduced his first publication on oral implantology.

However, his discovery of the osseous integration of titanium implants was dismissed to be a mere myth. Only as special cutting techniques were developed, Brånemark's osseointegration was proved irrefutably. Just like all other major scientific achievements, oral implantology was established by leading researchers independently from and unknowingly from another.

In this regard, Prof. Daniel Buser explained the Schroeder Concept, which was named after Prof. André Schroeder from Switzerland. Schroeder did intensive research on implant materials in the late 1960s and developed hollow cylinder implants as well as solid screws with a plasma-coated titanium surface (TPS) in close cooperation with Dr. Fritz Straumann. Schroeder and his colleagues were the first research team to present implants which were fully anchored in non-decalcified bone sections. Among others, his work led to the foundation of the International Team for Implantology (ITI) in 1980.

The third pioneer in implantology was acknowledged by Prof. Jörg Meyle: The German implantologist Prof. Willi Schulte established the Schulte Concept, which describes the immediate implantation of ceramic, polycrystalline aluminium oxide stepped-cylinder implants (Tübingen Implant). He was able to prove that immediate implantation to the extraction socket can be a successful and durable implant therapy.

EAO education programme for students

In addition to its activities regarding the annual congress, the EAO announced the launch of its prestigious

and highly anticipated EAO Education Programme during its 24th annual meeting. The programme launches in spring 2016 and offers students the chance to participate in live learning events taught by world-class implantology experts at some of Europe's most renowned universities*, along with a unique online learning platform (the EAO Classroom).

The EAO has a long-standing commitment to dental education. Its aim is 'to improve the quality of patient care by bridging the gap between science and clinical practice'. In 2010, the EAO launched its Certificate in Implant-based Therapy, which was the first and only Europe-wide standardised assessment of skills and expertise within implant-based therapy. The new Education Programme will complement the Certification Programme and provide an additional service to EAO members and the wider dental community.

The programme consists of six modules at three levels (straightforward, advanced and complex). Each module includes a three-day on-site training element, which combines hands-on sessions, lectures, practical exercises and live surgery. The breadth of training modules is much wider than what is offered by existing courses, and will enable candidates to gain the range of knowledge required to practice at the highest level of implant dentistry.

Attendees at the EAO congress in Stockholm: Interviews with the organiser of the Education Programme are available. Please contact oliver@publishingbureau.co.uk or alex.shedlock@publishingbureau.co.uk to organise an interview.

**The six centres where live learning events will take place are: University Hospital, Malmö, Faculty of Odontology; University Medical Center of Groningen, Dept. Oral Maxillofacial Surgery; University of Zurich, Clinic for Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics and the Unit for Oral Implantology; University Hospital Düsseldorf, Dept. Oral Surgery; Complutense University of Madrid, Department of Stomatology III; Lisbon University, School of Dental Medicine.*

Fig. 3 Prof. Dr Daniel Buser from Switzerland was among the Congress' speakers and honoured the scientific achievements of Swiss Prof. André Schroeder.

Fig. 4 Prof. Jörg Meyle, Germany, spoke about the German implantologist Prof. Willi Schulte.