You are presenting a lecture titled “In-office digital solutions—Expanding the limits” tomorrow. What is your lecture about and what are the main learning objectives you are aiming for?

When speaking about digitalisation in dentistry, most of my peers first and foremost think of digital impressions, but of course, it is more than this. The digital office starts with market research. The first thing is a simple digital dentistry is a question of investment. If one wants to buy a good scanner, one has to put a large amount of money towards it and will maybe even have additional costs for licensing and so on.

Secondly, all the changes in the workflow are associated with this is a totally different organisational process and all the staff need to learn the new workflows. Actually, this is one more reason to start with digital dentistry now and not later, because there are more and more changes coming.

The use of digital technology is a growing trend. What do you think the next five to ten years will bring in terms of new products or workflows?

I believe that the majority will have adapted to the digitalisation process and will mainly work with modern technology. Some will stick to conventional methods, but they will be the minority. It is like people that listen to vinyl—there are only a few people these days that do so, but they exist.

For more than 20 years, you have taught and taught many courses on CAD/CAM in dentistry, and you have also written a textbook on the subject. What do you find most fascinating about the CAD/CAM field?

The thing that fascinates me the most is that the field is constantly evolving. Often one thinks that there cannot be any other thing else that is more advanced and never the machine one already owns, but then such a device comes along. And this development is unbelievable.

Comparing digital dentistry from when you started your career to now, where are the greatest developments? And are there any treatment options available now that you could never have imagined a few years ago?

Some things that are possible today I could not have dreamed of a few years ago. I started in 1994 with a CEREC machine and when we switched to CEREC 2 in 1996 it was unbelievable. It was the first software we had for crowns and we were so amazed that we were able to make crowns. Nowadays, there are many more things that I could never have expected and the amazing thing is that there is no end in sight. I have just turned 70 and a few people were asking me about retirement and I said I could not even think about that right now because at the moment this process is so interesting and amazing. I could not imagine not being a part of it.