The International Team for Implantology (ITI), a leading academic organization dedicated to the promotion of evidence-based education and research in the field of implant dentistry, welcomed more than 4,200 participants from 84 countries to its global flagship event, the ITI World Symposium. Held under the heading "Knowledge is key", the meeting took place in Geneva, Switzerland, between April 24 and 26, 2014.

**ITI programme**

After a brief excursion into outer space, presented by keynote speaker Claude Nicollier, Switzerland’s first and only astronaut, the scientific programme guided the audience back down to solid ground with a practically oriented offering of lectures, presentations and panel discussions. The latest scientific findings aligned to the ITI philosophy of evidence-based treatment served as the basis for all the presentations that came under the three main topics: “Digital implant dentistry”, “Prevention and management of biological and technical complications” and “New approaches, challenges and limitations in aesthetics”.

The scientific programme was supplemented by a half-day Pre-Symposium Corporate Forum presented by industry leaders Straumann, Morita and Geistlich as well as a research competition and an attractive social programme that offered ample opportunity for networking and a chance to talk to key opinion leaders. An extensive industry exhibition with 50 exhibitors allowed participants the possibility to find out about the latest products related to their daily work. “Our main theme ‘Knowledge is key’ underlines the importance the ITI assigns to evidence-based information for use in daily clinical practice,” said Dr Stephen Chen, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee. “This applies not just to
The Symposium provided a tailor-made opportunity to present a preview of the soon-to-be launched ITI Online Academy—planned to be the most innovative and complete e-learning platform worldwide. With its user-oriented approach, the ITI Online Academy offers a broad and continuously expanding curriculum of learning modules designed for every level of expertise. It is supplemented by cases, videos and lectures as well as a wealth of free content such as assessments geared to identifying individual strengths, weaknesses and gaps in knowledge. “We are very proud of our new e-learning platform as we believe it goes further than any other offering currently available,” commented Prof. Dr David Cochran, ITI President (Abb. 4). “Not only does the curriculum cover implant dentistry in its entirety, but the system is also designed to adapt dynamically to the user and propose further learning pathways based on the gaps and weaknesses identified.” Twelve demo workstations were available to participants of the ITI World Symposium 2014 to test-drive the Online Academy and provide valuable user feedback. The Academy will be launched later this year. The next ITI World Symposium takes place in 2017.

**ITI Online Academy**

Fig. 2 As congress partner, the Straumann AG informed the participants about their latest products.

**Figs. 3 & 5.** Participants had much opportunity to connect with colleagues from all around the world in a cozy atmosphere.

**Fig. 4.** Prof. Dr David Cochran, President of the ITI, presented the new e-learning platform ITI Online Academy.

**Fig. 6.** Dr Stephen Chen, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee, spoke about maintenance of the ridge post-extraction and its risk for aesthetics.

**Figs. 7 & 9.** During the three-day congress the participants were offered a scientific programme with practically oriented lectures, presentations and panel discussions.

**Fig. 8.** Prof. Dr Daniel Buser, former ITI President.
More than **120 implantologists** met for the International Bicon Symposium

**Fig. 1.** The International Bicon Symposium took place in the picturesque tourist town Taormina/Sicily.

**Fig. 2.** The lectures were focused on the subject “Avoiding augmentative measures by application of short implants”.

**Fig. 3.** There was also time to share some expertise: Dr Vincent J. Morgan (left), president of Bicon, Prof. Dr Rolf Ewers and Prof. Dr Mauro Marincola (right) in a conversation.

**Fig. 4.** More than 120 implantologists from eleven countries met for the symposium.

**Fig. 5.** Dr Vincent J. Morgan, president of Bicon, and Prof. Dr Rolf Ewers.

**Fig. 6.** Prof. Dr Mauro Marincola and Jürgen Isbaner, executive board of OEMUS MEDIA AG.

**On the subject** “Avoiding augmentative measures by application of short implants”, an international symposium for implantology was held. The event took place in the picturesque tourist town Taormina/Italy on 26 April 2014. More than 120 implantologists from eleven countries met for the symposium in Sicily. Scientific head of the event was Prof. Dr Mauro Marincola/Rome, Italy.

The lectures were focused on questions about avoiding augmentative measures by application of ultrashort implants as well as minimally invasive implantological concepts.

In this context, among others it was discussed whether long implants were necessary in case of reduced bone material and how short implants need to be in the immediate loading. In addition to Prof. Dr Marincola, Prof. Dr Rolf Ewers/Vienna, Austria, and Dr Frank Kistler/Landsberg am Lech, Germany, belonged to the speakers team.

The meeting was already a foretaste for the 30th anniversary that Bicon is going to celebrate with three major scientific events in 2015. On the first weekend in May 2015, Bicon jubilee congresses will be held in Munich, Germany; Boston, USA, and Rome, Italy.
The 6th Swiss Biomaterial Days, which took place on 9 and 10 May 2014 in Lucerne, were dedicated to future-oriented, minimally invasive treatment concepts. Located on the northwestern tip of Lake Lucerne, the event provided its 150 participants from all over Europe with a complex scientific programme and top-level speakers.

Prof. Dr Walter Lückerath, University of Bonn, Germany, who held the scientific chair of the congress, stated in his invitation, “We are obliged to our patients to strive for less invasive procedures, so that treatment becomes less strenuous. With this in mind, we chose the topics and speakers for the 6th Swiss Biomaterial Days with a focus on minimally invasive concepts.”

The pre-congress “Guidor Matrix Barrier” was directed by Prof. Dr Dr Erich Wintermantel. Parallel workshops on augmentation, periodontology, oral surgery and aesthetics started at noon, along with the main congress.

The key element of less or non-invasive treatment concepts is minimally invasive surgery. Therefore, Prof. Dr Wilfried Engelke’s speech dealt with the transfer of medical approaches—small incisions and endoscopy—to oral surgery and implantology. Dr Mario Kirste, Dr Minas Leventis and Prof. Lückerath showed how modifications of contemporary surgical or clinical procedures for the maintenance of the alveolar ridge can help simplify clinical procedures, thus reducing side effects of the treatment. Prof. Dr Ashish Kakar and Dr Antonio Flichy illustrated how immediate implantation can help reduce the number of surgical procedures. Prof. Dr Else Marie Pinholt’s speech dealt with the microstructures of periimplant hard tissues after augmentation with bone substitutes.

In addition, minimally invasive concepts should include new or recently discovered surgical approaches, offering the chance to complement or replace invasive techniques. Dr Dr Karl-Heinz Heuckmann and Prof. Kakar’s workshops showed the participants how subperiosteal tunnel techniques can be applied successfully as minimally invasive techniques in lateral ridge augmentation. Often, the least invasive approaches are those which manage without surgery. In this context, PD Dr José Gonzales gave demonstrated nonsurgical approaches to periodontal treatment concepts for patients with systemic diseases.

Minimally invasive treatment concepts in Lucerne

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Fig. 1. The Lucerne venue.

Fig. 2. Team Sunstar Guidor, Germany, CEO Dr Gerhard Pötsch (middle).

Fig. 3. Prof. Dr Walter Lückerath (2nd from left) and congress participants during the pre-congress.

Fig. 4. Prof. Dr Erich Wintermantel during the pre-congress.