Author: Dr Rolf Vollmer, Germany

Dr Ahmed Fadl, president of the Sudanese Oral Implantology Association (SOIA), invited participants from around the world to a symposium in Khartoum/Sudan on 26 May 2016. The former DGZI master is now among the leading Sudanese implantologists. With more than 1,000 implants placed, Dr Fadl is one of the so-called “heavy users” in Sudan. His dental practice is equipped with modern technology, including dental lasers, CAD/CAM and CBCT and thus forms an ideal training facility.

Friends, colleagues and acquaintances attended the symposium in order to catch up on activities and education concepts of the DGZI.

Being introduced to the Sudanese foreign minister, Prof. Dr Ibrahim Ghandour, who is both a dentist and implantologist himself, has been a special honour for the German participants. The foreign minister followed specialist speeches with great interest. Presentations by DGZI representatives Dr Rolf Vollmer, Dr Rainer Valentin and Dr Mazen Tamimi completed the programme and illustrated the state of the art of implantology.

Of course, Dr Rolf Vollmer did not miss the chance to invite his colleagues to the 46th International Annual DGZI Congress in Munich from 30 September to 1 October 2016. This implantological event will attract colleagues from around the world, especially because of the many international relations of the DGZI. The worldwide DGZI network has resulted in many friendships, for example between colleagues from Japan, the USA or Eastern Europe and Arabia.

Fig. 1: Dr Rolf Vollmer and Dr Ahmed Fadl looking forward to the symposium.
Fig. 2: Interested participants.
Fig. 3: Dr Rainer Valentin and foreign minister Prof. Dr Ibrahim Ghandour follow the presentations eagerly.
With the theme “Making millions smile together”, the Ukrainian city Kharkov hosted this year’s DGZI Dental Days from 2 to 4 June 2016 at the Palace Premier Hotel.

Next to Kiev, Kharkov is the second-largest city of the Ukraine at 1.4 million inhabitants (2015). With 42 universities and academies, the city also forms the most important science and education centre of the country. Kharkov is situated in Northeastern Ukraine, where the River Charkiw flows into the River Lopan and the River Lopan flows into the River Udy. The city also is an industrial centre for electrical, food and chemical industry as well as engineering and rail vehicle manufacturing. Featuring six museums, Kharkov also is a cultural focal point.

The congress in Kharkov from 2 to 4 June 2016 marked the beginning of a new era in Ukrainian dentistry. Kharkov Dental Days were organised by the Association of Private Practice Dentists of the Ukraine (APPDU), represented by its president Taravnekh Shaker. The event’s main aim was to provide a stable basis for high quality standards in dentistry in the Ukraine to accommodate international standards.

Latest trends in dentistry were presented to the attending Ukrainian dentists.

Dr Rainer Valentin and Dr Mazen Tamimi represented the DGZI at this year’s Dental Days in Kharkov, in cooperation with the company Sprint Dental. A similar agreement was formed with regard to the relations to the Ukraine.

The DGZI specialist speeches were received with great interest and enthusiasm, which will result in more Ukrainian representatives being present at DGZI events.

Dr Mazen Tamimi addressed problems in the management of the severely atrophied mandible, while Dr Rainer Valentin reported on his success story of more than 30 years of practicing sinus lift procedures. Other speakers had travelled to Kharkov from Spain, Greece, Turkey, Russia and Germany. The event also featured a dental exhibition in which various international companies presented their products. An evening gala completed the DGZI Dental Days, uniting participants from different countries and the dentists from the Ukraine with a family feeling.
Together with its Georgian partner society GLIPD (Georgian League of Implantology Professional Development), the DGZI held their first joint congress from 10 to 11 July 2016 in Kakheti, which is situated about 80 km near Tbilisi. The DGZI executive board was represented by Dr Rolf Vollmer, Dr Rainer Valentin and Dr Mazen Tamimi. GLIPD has been a DGZI partner since 2015, including a cooperation agreement concerning congresses and curricular further education.

The implantological programme was comprised of contributions by Georgian speakers as well as speakers and DGZI members of the board from abroad. Also speaking was DGZI member Dr Michael Hopp from Berlin, Germany. Impressive speeches, such as those by MD PhD Kakha Metreveli, MD PhD Dea Vadachkoria, MD PhD Levan Tadumadze, MD PhD Ramaz Orjonikidze, Dr Galaktion Makhviladze und Dr George Makharadze, illustrated the event’s high academic level and the state of the art of implantology in Georgia. Digital radiography, CBCT or CAD/CAM technology—Everything is possible in Georgia, surgically as well as prosthetically. Prosthetic solutions which match the patient and his/her financial background were introduced, including contemporary materials such as PEEK. Last but not least, Georgia showed an exemplary hospitality, which contributed in making this first joint congress a special highlight. Wine tastings and an introduction to the secrets of golfing completed the event’s programme.

Moreover, the event organisers confirmed that they will take part in this year’s Oktoberfest and the 46th International DGZI Congress in Munich from 30 September to 1 October 2016.

Fig. 1: The congress speakers enjoyed the successful event.
Fig. 2: Members of the DGZI welcoming Georgia’s hospitality.

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From 28 September to 1 October 2016, the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) hosted their 25th Annual Congress. This year, the prestigious scientific congress took place at the Palais des Congrès in Paris and was attended by more than 2,600 international delegates and industry partners.

On the occasion of their 25th annual congress, the EAO announced the five winners of the special scientific awards and the candidates who had successfully completed the EAO certifying programme. Against the backdrop of a festive ceremony, the scientists were awarded with their prizes and certificates by EAO President Björn Klinge, whose position is now held by Alberto Sicilia.

Again, many scientific abstracts were handed in to apply for the EAO award. A total of 609 abstracts had been accepted for presentation at the congress, 68 of which were shortlisted for a number of scientific awards. All submissions were published in a special supplement of Clinical Oral Implants Research, a peer-reviewed EAO journal.

In the course of the ceremony, five candidates were awarded an EAO Certificate for implant-based therapy. This is the only standardised recognition of implantological skills and expertise in Europe. Every candidate has to submit six clinical cases, pass a multiple-choice exam and answer detailed case-related questions. This year’s winners were Dr Edith Groenendijk (Netherlands), Dr José Pinheiro Torres (Portugal), Dr Emmanouil Symeonidis (Greece), Dr Weihua Yang (China) und Dr. Sawako Yokoyama (Japan). Prof. Niklaus P. Lang, founding editor of Clinical Oral Implants Research, was given a medal and was granted honorary membership of the EAO.

Furthermore, the European Association for Osseointegration’s (EAO) Junior Committee has elected two new members. Sven Mülhemann, from Switzerland, and Tommie Van De Velde, from Belgium, are fill-
The Junior Committee is a group of young scientists working in the field of implant dentistry. They represent the junior section of the EAO and support the Board of Directors with a range of projects. These include developing new ideas for the growth of the association. The committee consists of eight members from eight different European countries. Each member is elected for a two-year period.

Today at the EAO’s 25th scientific meeting in Paris, the Junior Committee presented a unique session called ‘7 Minutes to Convince’. It featured a series of short presentations showcasing new research submitted by members of the public. Of the 39 candidates who applied, only seven were selected to present during the session. The audience had the chance to vote for the one they thought was the best.

The winning presentation was ‘Point of view perspective of a dental implant patient’ by Mustafa Ozcan (Turkey). His discussion featured an innovative recording of an implant procedure from the patient’s perspective using a head-mounted camera. His research highlighted patient anxiety as a factor in post-operative satisfaction rates and gave dentists a point of view which may be unfamiliar to them. Dr Ozcan was presented with an award for his success in the competition.

You can view the one-minute application videos at the EAO’s YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpB-t6R4nQcO_yZskip1iqA_..