

3rd Champions & VIP ZM Congress in Palma de Mallorca

At Champions, where the music plays

Educational and training events held in attractive and sunny settings can be quite frustrating for participating speakers. They may often lose out when trying to compete with the sun, the beach and the sea, and after a few days they are clearly distinguishable as “those who don’t have a sunburn”. So if the conference room at the 3rd Champions Congress in Palma de Mallorca in early October was almost always filled to capacity with nearly 180 participants, from early morning until late afternoon after extended discussions, this certainly speaks both for the careful selection of relevant topics and for the esprit de corps of the Champions users present.

Dr Armin Nedjat, CEO of Champions Implants, started out by looking back on seven years of success with “made-in-Germany production and product quality, unprecedented innovation and very reasonable prices to dentists”. He gave a short overview of the company’s recent developments, including a new, very well organized surgical tray, an improved drilling protocol, ICA - Individual Connected Abutments and MultiUnit abutments and the new hydrophilic Champions implant surface. Participants sat up and took notice as *Dr Manfred Louis* (Germany) reported on the high-performance material PEEK, which Champions is planning to introduce next year as an alternative to titanium or ceramic implants.

PEEK – polyether-ether-ketone – is a very successful material already in use in other medical fields, with outstanding properties: it is tissue-friendly, bio-inert, non-cytotoxic, electrically non-conductive and a thermal insulator, and its chemical resistance makes it impervious to saliva, meaning that no intraoral reactions can occur. “Everyone has learnt in dental school that the teeth are not firmly anchored in the bone – why should an implant be rigidly connected rather than ‘bone-elastic’?”, asked *Dr Louis*. Rather to the contrary, the high stiffness of conventional materials



conducted the bulk of the mechanical load directly into the bone and caused peri-implant bone resorption, independently of the implant system used. The specially developed bone-elastic WIN PEEK could become an alternative to titanium or zirconia. *Dr Louis* impressed the

audience with the results of a number of studies and highlighted the benefits of this material of the future. In addition, he said, the lighter colour offered aesthetic advantages over titanium. The following discussion was very lively and foreshadowed that the PEEK material might become a sought-after clinical alternative.

No less vivid was the following lecture by *Dr Gerhard Quasigroch* (Germany) on functional analysis and its practical implementation. A sharp increase in CMD-related disorders with polymorphic complaints has been observed in the EU. A terrible ordeal for the afflicted patients – by the time their tinnitus or chronic migraine has been correctly diagnosed, they will often have a prolonged journey through various medical institutions behind them. *Dr Quasigroch* presented a number of clinical cases, and the ensuing discussion bore witness to how many dentists encounter CMD in daily practice.

Dr Kresimir Spisić (Croatia) had postponed his speech the night before because time had been running late, but congress attendees thanked him by showing up in numbers early the next morning despite the lively poolside party the night before. *Dr Spisić* and his colleagues made intensive use of the Champions Forum

to exchange ideas with colleagues, to learn and to improve their own treatment methods.

Following the laser hype of the early 1990s, a certain disillusionment had set in. *Michael Heyrowsky*, CEO of Champions Innovations, demonstrated several applications that use the Dornier diode laser, which is definitely more than just a toy for tech-enamoured dentists, especially when it comes to periodontal rehabilitation.

Dr Dan McEowen (USA) described the great potential of the Champions implants and the MIMI flapless procedure in the United States and in Central and South America. His presentations and courses, including those at the universities, were always fully booked. For him, who had worked with all major systems, Champions had reached the very top in terms of quality, innovation, clinical practicality and price. But he also advocated a meticulous diagnosis, including 3D: "There will still be plenty of occasions where you are left in the dark without 3D. Make sure to use all the diagnostic aids at your disposal as needed!"

Andreas Witt (Germany) presented various applications of a particulate cross-linked hyaluronic acid, to be used primarily in the treatment of class 1 defects. Another promising study is under way in which the addition of silver to the material provides an additional bactericidal effect, which in the future will allow the treatment of larger peri-implant defects. A review of the state of the art and current status of the MIMI flapless protocol was presented by *Dr Jean-Pierre Chetry* (France), a very elaborate presentation studded with scientific references. To counter a common objection to the MIMI procedure, *Dr Chetry* cited the 2006 study by *Ivanovski* and coworkers. They had found that after transgingival implant placement, connective tissue in contact with the implant had no adverse effect on osseointegration.

Dr Oliver Scheiter (Mallorca) held a brilliantly systematic presentation on the MIMI 2 flapless technique and angle modulation. "You know what the simplest drilling protocol is? Do not drill!" is how he described the minimally invasive approach. He also demonstrated his special surgical procedure, as employed in patients with severe bone atrophy and a difficult pointed jaw, which achieves impressive jaw expansion and a stable long-term situation with regard not only to the bone, but also to the attached gingiva. *Dr Ernst Fuchs-Schaller* (Switzerland) took the audience on a veritable roller-coaster ride through the land of the MIMI 1, 2 and 3 flapless techniques in his typical lively manner: "Operating is fun – being operated on not so much." His witty presentation, peppered with lots of practical tips and tricks, gave the audience a renewed jolt despite the late hour. Commenting on the many techniques that, while



Dr Armin Nedjat presents the pioneering implant material.

unorthodox, had been proven successful, he said: "Isn't it always like that? First we try it out in practice, find that it works – and then the scientists come along and tell us why!"

Saturday, too, offered a varied programme with contributions from the Champions Forum by *Dr Harald Bauer* (Germany) on intraosseous anaesthesia with the QuickSleeper, by *Dr Norbert Basler* (Germany) about 30 years of clinical experience and the almost artistic presentation by *Alexander Lisizki* (Germany and Russia) and his novel treatment approach that borders on the realm of orthodontics. "Fixed teeth in a single day" was the treatment concept presented by *Frank Schrader* (Germany), who uses the MIMI technique to load implants immediately if primary stability, the number of implants used and maximum splinting limits permit. An impressive case series, which he also summarized in his second book with the same title, illustrated his high success rate. The success rate of *Dr Tilman Flechsig* (Germany) with one-piece Champions implants was 95 per cent, coming close to his clinical expectations: "We practice conservative dentistry, not oral implantology."

The final lecture was given by *Dr Volker Knorr* (Germany), who complements the minimalist surgical concept with matching minimally invasive prosthodontics. The Knorr concept achieves successful CBCT-based virtual planning and final restoration, with excellent prosthetic results even in complex situations.

"This has been a great conference with impressive lectures! Thank you so much, all of you!", exclaimed *Dr Nedjat* as he himself took to the piano keyboard at the impressive *Victoria Miles* concert at the beautiful Pueblo Español. One more reason why many participants will remember the 3rd Champions Congress as a truly pleasurable experience despite the crowded programme.

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Save the date!

4th Champions Congress, 3–5 October 2014
Frankfurt, Germany