



4th International Champions Congress in Frankfurt, Germany

Champions to the touch

The room at the Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof in Frankfurt, where the 4th International Congress of Champions Implants took place, was jam-packed with over 230 participants, including an encouraging number of women.

Dr Armin Nedjat opened the congress with reports on scientific news, Champions product innovations and ensuing new treatment options. The report on titanium incompatibilities and the new alternative WIN! PEEK material drew much interest from the audience. "Like zirconia, titanium is subject to a certain level of abrasion, and the resulting particles are recognized by macrophages", explained *Nedjat*. "This is not the same as an allergy, it is a response of the immune system, which can unfortunately get derailed in some patients and lead to a variety of ailments." WIN! PEEK does not fracture, and its bioelasticity is similar to that of natural bone. The same is, however, the case in the coronal area, which is why WIN! PEEK is additionally secured with zirconia PrepCap. Champions has also developed a particular method for roughening the surface of the moulded parts, improving bone apposition. "The natural tooth is not 'osseointegrated', and I would not want my implants to be seamlessly integrated with the bone. I prefer to speak of 'osseconnection' based on the osteophilic properties of the PEEK material", said *Nedjat*.

He illustrated his misgivings about blind trust in navigated implantology with a rather unusual photograph that showed him sitting in the car with a helmet on. As long as one does not know how to drive a car, the helmet is of no use at all; rather, the driver's field of vision is restricted, and the driver him- or herself is lulled in a false sense of security. "No robot in the world can replace the feeling in our fingers", continued *Nedjat*. "When my patients ask me how I know where the bone is, I simply reply that I do everything digitally – after all, digit means 'finger!'"

Nevertheless, *Dr Peter Robotta* (Münster, Germany) still presented the "digital workflow", reporting on the current state of optical impression-taking. "Anyone who does not feel like improving their preparation margin technique isn't helped by improved impressioning techniques, either." He demonstrated the double cord technique and challenged his audience to simply try for themselves on the following Monday this simple-to-test method that significantly improves the representation of the preparation margins.

The logical next step was presented by *Dr Volker Knorr* (Eislingen, Germany) with his "Knorr concept" of a completely closed digital workflow. At preparation, *Knorr* immediately connects the abutment, such that the following CBCT scan can acquire the complete situation. The prosthetic restoration is first set up and tried in in acrylic, allowing necessary adjustments to be made. Only then the ceramic "copy" is produced. *Knorr* uses a composite sleeve 1–2 mm in size to prevent the collapse of the soft tissue.

Late that day, *Dr Rainer Kazda* (Vienna, Austria) helped his listeners relax as he presented his humorous and philosophical account of 37 years of oral implantology.

Dr Frank Schrader (Zerbst, Austria) reported on his work with one-piece implants and his "fixed teeth in a day" concept with very respectable success rates. "Modern practice concepts and professional networking" was the topic of of dentist and dental technician *Dr Gerhard Quasigroch* (Oldenburg, Germany), who presented functional diagnosis as one of the essential methods.

Dr Tilman Flechsig (Witzenhausen, Germany) showed impressive chairside CEREC restorations

on two-piece Champions (R)evolutions implants. *Flechsigs*'s experience with focused circular "over-modellation" of the ceramic material to create an improved emergence profile and avoid difficult-to-clean lacunae has been very good. Next, the first woman in the pool of speakers, *Dr Jolanta Nowakowska-Socha* (Przeclaw, Poland), presented several immediate-placement cases with one-piece Champions implants. The minimally invasive method that avoids extensive augmentation procedures and also the resultant economic benefits met the needs of her patient clientele very well.

Despite a late dinner with entertainment dancing until well after midnight, where *Dr Armin Nedjat* and his band of old days personally worked the keyboards, the participants were back on time the next morning to listen to the talk by *Dr Dan McEowen*, representative of the US branch of Champions Implants in Maryland and an enthusiastic user himself. *Dr Augusto André Baptista* (Remich, Luxembourg) provided a comprehensive overview of currently available alternatives for bone augmentation. *Professor Pierre Bravetti* (Nancy, France) presented sophisticated solutions for highly atrophic and edentulous jaws. "Why have you never told me how easy this can be?" This was the frequent grateful reaction *Dr Frédérique Lorente* (Jonquières, France) heard from his patients after treatment with the MIMI flapless technique. He showed the audience many treatment tricks.

After a dense dental programme, the next block of lectures addressed business aspects. *Nadja Alin Jung* (Frankfurt, Germany) showed how well-targeted and well-structured marketing can increase patient numbers and revenues. *Torsten Klapdor* (Essen, Germany) and his consultancy *Medidentas* advise dentists in financial matters on a pure fee basis. He described himself, in his very entertaining and informative lecture, as a "financial advisor who uses the *Robin Hood* approach". *Lars Bernotat* (Tausenstein, Germany) presented the *goDentis* dentist network that offers a variety of support services.

The afternoon section was opened by *Dr Marc Bertrand* (Paris, France), a renowned author of several books, with the provocative topic of "How can I lose an implant?" and an overview of biological and mechanical sources of error underlying implant failures. *Dr Mariusz Duda* (Katowice, Poland) showed an impressive number of success cases using the MIMI Flapless technique.

A funny highlight of the second day of the conference was the presentation of the "Celebrity Champions" cup to multi-talented extreme sportsman *Joey Kelly*, who shared witty insights into his spectacular life, drawing many laughs and presenting not a few eye-openers.



Two champions: Joey Kelly (left) and Dr Armin Nedjat.



Perfectionist Dr Oliver Scheiter.

Sunday morning was kicked off by *Dr Hervé Birbes* (Saint-Gratien, France) with a review of his treatment approaches using MIMI Flapless. *Dr Oliver Scheiter* (Illetas, Mallorca, Spain) ironically thanked *Dr Armin Nedjat* for giving his contribution the elitist epithet of "MIMI II Flapless to perfection"—something, he said, that he now had to live up to. But as his rich and dense presentation replete with alternative surgical protocols and approaches showed, the predicate was not at all unearned. Using angle modulation and a "bioactive container", *Scheiter* now largely works without the use of allografts or xenografts. The term "perfection", he said, could be justified because his approach is 100 per cent biological, with minimal trauma that the body itself could handle very well. *Scheiter* complained that dentists are often not sufficiently well informed about complex medical contexts and therefore unable to take advantage of the self-healing properties of the body.

Dr Ernst Fuchs-Schaller (Thalwil, Switzerland), in his concluding lecture, compared the technique of angle modulation to widening a loaf of bread by moving the crust and compacting the crumb. "This gives you a significantly better bone structure in just a few minutes." He believes that Champions MIMI implants fit this technique perfectly, as the flapless procedure meets the biological requirements. "Always think biology!", proclaimed *Fuchs-Schaller* as he presented, in his usual temperamental way, very impressive solutions even in severe atrophy.

The social highlight of the congress was a joint visit to a concert of "The Queen Kings", one of the best Queen cover bands. Needless to say, everyone joined in singing "We are the Champions" ... STE ■



Dr Ernst Fuchs-Schaller likes things biological.