

From the Editor's Desk



Implant dentistry in the posterior jaw segments of partially dentate patients – a field that in recent years has become increasingly overshadowed by, for example, advanced esthetically oriented aspects or spectacular achievements in digital technology. Reason enough for the Editorial Board to dedicate the main part of the present issue of the Forum Implantologicum to an update on this somewhat neglected topic that nevertheless represents the majority of indications for contemporary implant therapy. Three author teams, two working in a university environment and one in a large, private clinic, accepted our invitation to present the refined and solidly documented state-of-the-art clinical concepts that have evolved over time. They have reviewed the surgical options and related guidelines for implant therapy in both the posterior maxilla and mandible, as well as addressing related prosthetic design principles. A fourth article

critically discusses the mechanics associated with screw-retained implant connectors, a domain that is by no means trivial and is hence frequently misunderstood and/or underestimated despite its fundamental importance when it comes to the prevention of technical complications of implant restorations.

This issue sees the introduction of a new feature called “Ask the experts” in which a group of experts provides an informed opinion founded on extensive personal experience that addresses a pertinent but still controversially discussed issue in the field of clinical implant dentistry. To launch this series, the question about clear decision-making criteria for explantation, including precise time points, was chosen, and four reputed clinicians and researchers from the ITI community kindly accepted the challenge.

Thanks to the support of Lisa Heitz-Mayfield, Chair of the ITI Research Committee, the recently launched “Meet the Researchers” series continues. This time another outstanding project, jointly performed by scientists from Germany and the US, experimentally investigating the effect of non-passively fitting implant reconstructions to the surrounding bone, is presented.

It goes without saying that the popular “Photo and Presentation tips and tricks” section not only continues, but has even been extended, as an additional team of authors was invited to uncover the secrets of light in dental photography.

On a more personal note: my four-year term as Editor-in-Chief has come to an end and new leadership will take over the running

of the Forum Implantologicum. I would like to take a moment to look back, evaluate progress, and review some of the priorities. It appeared important to maintain the essence of the original scope of the Forum Implantologicum as successfully initiated at its foundation by Erik Hjørting-Hansen and his Editorial Board. We tried to keep pace and meet the manifold expectations of an extremely fast growing international readership and to optimize the balance between clinical, scientific and educational topics. It was our aim to keep the Forum attractive, yet distinctly different in comparison to the many other journals in the field. Last but not least, we engaged on the complex and laborious path to obtaining Pubmed referencing for the Forum Implantologicum.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the ITI Board of Directors in general and President David Cochran in particular for their steadfast support and confidence. Once again, my sincerest thanks go to my colleagues and friends of the Editorial Board for their vision and contributions, and more specifically to Matthias Joesch, Head of Communications at ITI Headquarters, for his untiring commitment and service to the Forum Implantologicum.

Urs Belser
Editor-in-Chief