

today

31st EAO Annual Scientific Meeting • Milan • 24–26 October 2024

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Interview

EAO speaker Dr Tiziano Testori from Italy talks about the shift towards a more conservative and ethical approach to implantology.

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Market report

The rising popularity of immediate loading reflects the growing demand for efficient and patient-centred approaches.

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Dental products in focus

The EAO meeting is an excellent opportunity to see the most up-to-date innovations in implant dentistry.

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Details make perfection at EAO meeting in Milan

Global experts converge to discuss advancements that push the boundaries of osseointegration.

■ The annual scientific meeting of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO) is one of Europe's premier platforms for dental professionals to exchange knowledge, network with peers and discover the latest advancements in implant dentistry, particularly concerning osseointegration. With a focus on both fundamental practices and innovative future approaches, the congress caters to a range of attendees, from emerging professionals to seasoned experts. Themed "Details make perfection", this year's event provides a blend of educational sessions, hands-on workshops and engaging debates aimed at advancing knowledge in implant dentistry.

In an interview with Dental Tribune International ahead of the congress,



renowned periodontist Dr Otto Zuhre expressed his enthusiasm for the event: "I am particularly excited about the focus on peri-implantitis treatment and the role of digital technologies. The live surgery demonstra-

tion on vertical hard-tissue defects will be a highlight, offering practical insights into a complex and increasingly relevant area of implant dentistry." [Read the complete interview on page 8]

The first day, dedicated to "The fundamentals", will include in-depth discussions on essential topics such as osseointegration, implant surface characteristics and

treatment planning. Under the title "My first implant", a hands-on session organised by the EAO Junior Committee

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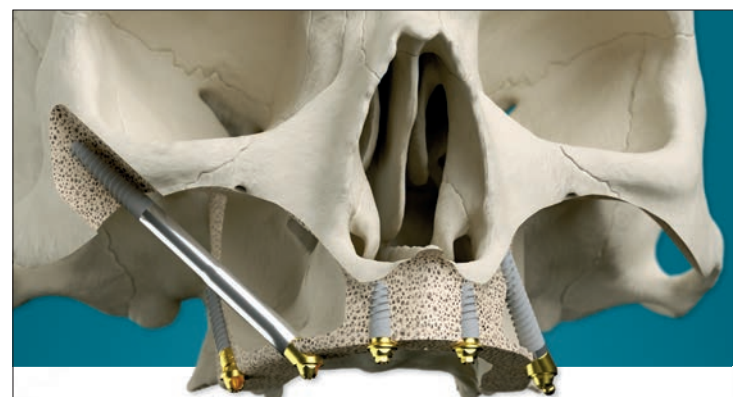
▲ Impressions from last year's European Association for Osseointegration meeting in Berlin in Germany. (All images: © EAO)

The congress is being held jointly by the EAO and two prestigious Italian organisations: the Italian Academy of Osseointegration (IAO) and the Italian Society of Periodontology and Implantology (SIIP). Together, they are hosting sessions combining their respective scientific perspectives to address pressing clinical challenges.

A multifaceted scientific programme

This year's congress is structured around a core theme for each of the three days: "The fundamentals", "State of the art—certainties" and "Beyond the limits". These themes reflect the evolving nature of dental implantology, and the programme covers both the foundational elements of the field and its future potential.

Dr Giovanni Zucchelli, co-chair of the scientific committee, highlighted the significance of this year's meeting: "The EAO congress is a tremendous opportunity not just for Italian societies but for the entire global dental community. With the theme 'Beyond the limits', we are looking forward to exploring new horizons in implant dentistry, particularly how we can overcome current challenges and limitations in osseointegration treatment." [Read the complete interview on page 6]



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About the EAO

The EAO was founded in the late 1980s subsequent to a meeting in Munich in Germany organised by Prof. Per-Ingvar Brånemark, the father of modern implantology. Concerned scientists, teachers and clinicians gathered to address the growing influence of commercial companies on osseointegration and the lack of critical academic scrutiny in the field. They recognised the need for a forum where innovative work on reconstructive surgery and prosthetic rehabilitation could be presented with a scientific and clinical focus. The EAO was established to cover a wide range of medical and dental disciplines, including orthopaedics, periodontics and maxillofacial reconstruction, and held its first annual meeting in Leuven in Belgium in 1992, attracting over 500 attendees from 26 countries.

Since its inception, the EAO has grown significantly, its recent congresses attracting more than 4,000 participants and membership expanding to over 2,000. In 1993, the association designated *Clinical Oral Implants Research* as its official journal, further enhancing its scientific influence. The EAO has maintained strict independence from commercial sponsors, ensuring high scientific standards at its meetings. Although its original focus included applications beyond the mouth, over the years, its annual meetings have concentrated on clinical advancements in osseointegration. The board meets regularly to strategise and engage with the growing membership base, maintaining the EAO's reputation as a leading forum for scientific and clinical excellence in the field.

In 2025, the congress will be held in Monaco from 18 to 20 September.

More information about the congress can be found online at congress.eao.org.

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will provide theoretical and practical insights into successful implant placement and complication management for newer practitioners.

Focused on “State of the art—certainties”, the second day will bring together experts to discuss up-to-date, evidence-based practices. Speakers will explore certainties in implant dentistry, sharing techniques that can be immediately applied in clinical settings. Key topics will include peri-implantitis treatment, digital workflows and guided surgery techniques.

The final day, themed “Beyond the limits”, will address the future of implantology and its exciting possibilities. Debates will focus on overcoming current limitations in osseointegration and exploring advancements in the use of artificial intelligence in dental practices.

The official language of this year's EAO congress is English,

though interpretation into Italian and other languages will be available for select sessions. A special programme for dental hygienists will take place on Saturday, 26 October, and will be presented in Italian by the IAO and SIdP.

A global line-up of experts

The congress is renowned for its international speaker line-up, and this year is no exception. More than 70 experts from across the globe will share their research, experience and predictions on the future of implant dentistry. Notable names include Prof. Daniel Buser and Vincent Fehmer from Switzerland, Prof. Mariano Sanz from Spain and Dr Massimo Simion from Italy. Their sessions will highlight the latest scientific findings and clinical innovations, providing attendees with a well-rounded update in the field.

Industry innovations and hands-on opportunities

One of the highlights of the congress is the exhibition, at which industry leaders are showcasing

cutting-edge products and technologies aimed at advancing dental practice. Companies such as Straumann, Nobel Biocare, Dentsply Sirona and Geistlich Pharma will host industry forums, offering insights into their latest research and development initiatives. Attendees will have opportunities to participate in hands-on workshops, where they will test new materials and tools and learn innovative techniques to improve patient care.

The Young Generation Session, scheduled for Thursday, 24 October, is another highly anticipated feature. This session aims to inspire the next wave of dental innovators, and young professionals have been invited to present their cases in a competition setting. The focus of this year's challenge, “Simplification through innovation”, encourages participants to demonstrate how innovative techniques can simplify complex dental procedures.

For those looking to expand their practical skills, hands-on workshops are being offered with support

from sponsors such as BioHorizons Camlog, Osstem Implant and HuFriedyGroup. These sessions are designed to provide clinicians with the tools they need to refine their surgical techniques and improve clinical outcomes. ◀

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CleanImplant Foundation: The mission is at full throttle

Promoting awareness of clean implant surfaces.



Fig. 1: Dr Dirk U. Duddeck, the managing director and head of research at the CleanImplant Foundation. **Fig. 2:** CleanImplant Certified Dentist display this year. **Fig. 3a-c:** Surface contamination on sterile-packaged implants.

courses globally. Their valuable efforts have illuminated factory-related contaminants on implant surfaces as a critical risk factor in implant failure. All dentists are encouraged to join the initiative as members, contributing to a unified and stronger voice in advocating for independently tested and reliable medical devices.

Contaminants on implant surfaces

Using advanced scanning electron microscopy and time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry, independent studies have detected particles of polysiloxane, thermoplastics and other synthetic polymers, among others, on implant surfaces. Additionally, analyses have identified thin film residues of substances such as dodecylbenzene-sulphonic acid (DBSA), an aggressive and surface-active chemical cleaning agent, and the quaternary ammonium compound didecylmethylammonium chloride (DDAC), which is commonly used as a biocide and pesticide. With appropriate manufacturing controls and packaging techniques, these substances should not be detectable on sterile-packed implants.

Passion for ethical standards

The CleanImplant Foundation acts as an intermediary, bridging the legitimate expectations of patients and providers with the quality assurance processes of medical device manufacturers. Through its initiatives, it has frequently identified previously unrecognised deficiencies in manufacturing and packaging, leading to significant and lasting improvements in production protocols. The shared commitment to the fundamental medical ethics principle of *primum non nocere* (first, do no harm) highlights the collaborative approach the foundation takes in working with its partners and manufacturers. Moreover, understanding the implications of residues of pesticides such as DDAC and of cytotoxic and hazardous surface-active agents such as DBSA on sterile-packaged implants intended for patient use is critical to ensuring product safety and efficacy.

Awards and certifications

“Trusted Quality” mark: This award guides dentists in selecting reliable implant systems. The mark is awarded to implant systems that meet the CleanImplant quality seal criteria established by the consensus recommendation of the foundation’s scientific advisory board in 2017. These criteria are recognised as the de facto standard for cleanliness in implantable devices. Currently, 18 implant systems hold the “Trusted Quality” mark.

“Certified Production Quality”: This certificate demonstrates superior quality management by contract manufacturers of implants.

“Approved by CleanImplant” seal: This seal indicates outstanding properties of medical devices, digital technology, software, implant care products or technologies proved to support successful clinical outcomes in dental implantology. To date, the SDSBOX (Swiss Dental Solutions), ACTILINK (Plasmapp) and SDS AIM (Swiss Dental Solutions) have received this seal.

“CleanImplant Certified Dentist”: More than 500 dentists and dental clinics worldwide are registered as CleanImplant Certified Dentists, reaping significant benefits from this membership, including attracting new patients. ◀

Editorial note: More information can be found at www.cleanimplant.org. EAO visitors have the opportunity to learn more at the company’s booth (#D16).

CleanImplant Foundation at a glance

The CleanImplant Foundation is a non-profit organisation founded in 2016 by dentist and biologist Dr Duddeck and headquartered in Berlin in Germany.

The CleanImplant Foundation performs regular quality assessment studies in collaboration with prominent universities, employing rigorous testing in specialised laboratories. Following a strict peer-review process, implant systems that meet the company’s standards are awarded the “Trusted Quality” mark, devices or technologies with outstanding properties that support successful clinical outcomes receive the “Approved by CleanImplant” seal and dentists can become members—CleanImplant Certified Dentists.

The members of the CleanImplant Foundation’s scientific advisory board are Prof. Ann Wennerberg (Sweden), Prof. Tomas Albrektsson (Sweden), Dr Michael R. Norton (UK), Prof. Hugo de Bruyn (Netherlands), Prof. Florian Beuer (Germany), Prof. Jaafar Mouhyi (Morocco), Dr Luigi Canullo (Italy) and Dr Scott D. Ganz (US).

Current “Trusted Quality” implant systems are AnyRidge (MegaGen), Astra Tech EV (Dentsply Sirona), BLUEDIAMOND IMPLANT (MegaGen), ICX-PREMIUM (medentis medical), In-Kone (Global D), INVERTA (Southern Implants), Kontakt W (Biotech Dental), (R)Evolution (Champions-Implants), s-Clean SQ-SL (DENTIS), SDS1.2 and SDS2.2 (Swiss Dental Solutions), Spiral SB/LA (Ritter Implants), SuperLine (Dentium), T6 and T6 Torq (NucleOSS), UnicCa (BTI Biotechnology Institute), whiteSKY (bredent medical) and ZENEX (IZEN IMPLANT).

■ The CleanImplant Foundation is dedicated to improving the safety and quality of dental implants. Independent studies have shown that far too many implant samples are contaminated by manufacturing processes, packaging procedures or the packaging itself. The CleanImplant Foundation’s mission is to raise

awareness about factory-related contaminants on implants.

The non-profit organisation conducts objective periodic quality assessments of implant systems in the global marketplace. These comprehensive inspections, carried out every two to three years, are independent of

any manufacturing influence. To date, over 300 implant systems from leading brands have been analysed, revealing alarming findings: nearly one in three samples contained residues from manufacturing processes or packaging contamination.

Dr Dirk U. Duddeck, the managing director and head of research at the CleanImplant Foundation, commented: “We are committed to protecting practitioners and their patients from unreliable medical devices, ensuring that they benefit from high-quality dental implant treatments. That is why we will be present at the annual congress of the European Association for Osseointegration. Our booth (#D16) will be the place to learn more about our history, research and passion for ethical standards of care.”

The global mission

The CleanImplant Foundation is proudly represented in North America by Dr Ken Serota with an office in New York. Recently, the company opened an office in Seoul in South Korea under the leadership of Dr Dana Adyani-Fard. The company’s growing community includes over 170,000 dental professionals worldwide who engage with it on social media to navigate the complexities of the implant marketplace. “These dedicated colleagues are laser-focused on ensuring the safety of their practices and patients,” stated Dr Duddeck.

The initiative has the backing of over 50 international ambassadors and numerous prominent key opinion leaders, who actively disseminate current assessment results at congresses and continuing education



Fig. 4: Officially accredited laboratory for scanning electron microscopy imaging. **Fig. 5:** CleanImplant Ambassadors’ Summit 2023 in Berlin in Germany. (All images: © CleanImplant Foundation)



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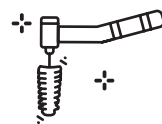
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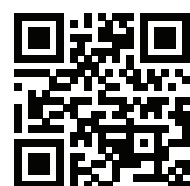
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“We should aim to minimise bone augmentation whenever possible”

An interview with Dr Giovanni Zucchelli.
By Nathalie Schüller, Dental Tribune International



▲ Dr Giovanni Zucchelli is the scientific committee co-chair of this year's EAO congress.

■ Ahead of EAO congress, Dr Giovanni Zucchelli, who is a co-chair of the scientific committee, spoke with Dental Tribune International about the major areas of discussion at this year's event. In this interview, he talks about significant advancements in the field of implantology and the value of the event for attendees.

Dr Zucchelli as a past president of the Italian Academy of Osseointegration and as a co-chair of the EAO congress, what are your thoughts on the significance of this year's collaboration with the EAO?

I think the EAO congress is a great opportunity for Italian societies as well. The Italian Society of Periodontology and Implantology and the Italian Academy of Osseointegration will be present both to join forces and because the EAO is a very big

and important event. The most important speakers in the field are invited, and the topics that will be covered are not only exciting but also the most relevant and challenging topics. We also have a new theme, “Beyond the limits”. The goal is to try to understand what we can do in the future to overcome what have been considered to be limitations of osseointegration treatments to date—an important compass for implant therapy.

Indeed, when we spoke five years ago at the MASTERMINDS2 conference in Athens in Greece, you mentioned that implantologists tended to focus on bone augmentation around the implant and less on soft-tissue management, considering it a procedure done only to improve on the outcome achieved with bone augmentation. You believe that, by increasing the

soft-tissue thickness and improving the soft-tissue management, the clinician can usually avoid bone augmentation. Have things changed?

I think that many things have changed in the last five years. There has been a growing recognition of the critical role soft-tissue management plays in implantology. While bone augmentation remains important, soft-tissue augmentation often achieves optimal outcomes without the need for additional bone procedures. Managing soft tissue becomes more complex when performing bone augmentation, and for that reason, we should aim to minimise bone augmentation whenever possible.

Historically, the focus was on bone augmentation because it was perceived as simpler to manage. However, especially in the aesthetic zone, soft-tissue management is essential and frequently provides excellent results without requiring bone enhancement. Additionally, bone augmentation can sometimes damage the surrounding soft tissue, further complicating treatment.

Given these considerations, the field of implantology has evolved. No longer is the emphasis solely on the relationship between the implant and the bone; there is now a greater appreciation of the crucial role of soft tissue. A strong periodontics background is essential for effective soft-tissue management, which ultimately enhances overall implant therapy outcomes.

Can you share some key topics or themes that will be highlighted at this year's EAO congress and explain

“There is now a greater appreciation of the crucial role of soft tissue.”

why these are particularly relevant to the current state of dental implantology?

The traditional topics will be covered, but I strongly encourage clinicians to attend the sessions of the new theme, “Beyond the limits”. These sessions will challenge participants to explore treatments that go beyond what is currently considered evidence-based. Going beyond the limits means achieving clinical results that surpass what is currently documented in evidence-based literature. While evidence-based practice provides a foundation, today, we have the opportunity to achieve outcomes that, although not yet fully reported on in the literature, are indeed possible.

For example, the sessions will explore innovative approaches to treating and managing peri-implantitis, including handling implant failures with advanced soft-tissue management techniques and strategies for dealing with implant extraction due to peri-implantitis. It will be fascinating to learn how far we can go in treating a failing implant, whether through efforts to salvage it with soft-tissue management and prosthetic adjustments or when extraction is necessary, requiring a complete restart of the treatment process.

From your perspective, what are some of the most exciting advancements or innovations in the field of implantology that will be discussed at the congress?

In terms of innovation, we must consider the digital impact on implantology, such as the enhancement of implant placement with precise guidance using digital tools. This technology allows for implant placement even in areas with limited bone, reducing the need for extensive bone augmentation by utilising the available bone more effectively. Additionally, it enables a more minimally invasive approach, as implants can now be placed with less bone than was required in the past when such guidance tools were not available.

Another significant advancement involves new materials for both soft- and hard-tissue augmentation. These materials help clinicians reduce the invasiveness of surgical procedures, promoting better patient outcomes and faster recovery.

Having been deeply involved in the field for many years, what do you personally hope attendees will take away from this congress?

When attending a major congress like this, it's important to focus on the

key innovations and future directions highlighted by the latest research. This is an opportunity to gain insights into cutting-edge techniques, technologies and materials that are shaping the future of implantology. By understanding these advancements, clinicians can enhance their practice, improve patient outcomes and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving field. ◀

Editorial note: Dr Giovanni Zucchelli will be one of the chairs in the session titled “Beyond the limits of hard- and soft-tissue augmentation: the next level”, which will be held on Saturday, 26 October from 11:00 to 12:15.

Dr Giovanni Zucchelli

graduated in 1988 with a degree in dentistry and was awarded a PhD in medical biotechnology in 1999 from the University of Bologna in Italy. Since 2000, he has been a full professor and dean of the periodontics department at the same university. He has received many awards for clinical research in periodontics in Europe and the US. In 2006 and 2008, he was awarded the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation's E. Bud Tarrson Research Award in Oral Plastic Surgery. He is an International Team for Implantology fellow and was made an honorary member of the American Academy of Periodontology in 2020. He has developed several soft-tissue plastic surgical techniques and has taught theoretical and practical (with live surgery) courses in many countries.

Dr Zucchelli is the author of 150 articles listed in PubMed, co-author of two textbooks on periodontal plastic surgery (Edizioni Martina) and author of the book *Mucogingival Esthetic Surgery* (Quintessence, 2013), published in 12 languages, and of the book *Mucogingival Esthetic Surgery Around Implants* (Quintessence, 2022). He is an active member of the European Academy of Esthetic Dentistry, Italian Society of Periodontology and Implantology and Italian Academy of Osteointegration, as well as a member of the European Federation of Periodontology. Dr Zucchelli was president of the Italian Academy of Osteointegration from 2020 to 2022. He is an associate editor of the *International Journal of Esthetic Dentistry*, a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry* and a peer reviewer for a number of ranked periodontics journals.

“In terms of innovation, we must consider the digital impact on implantology.”





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“It’s all about wound healing”

Dr Otto Zuhr offers perspectives on the latest advancements in soft-tissue management.

By Nathalie Schüller, Dental Tribune International



▲ Dr Otto Zuhr.

Your research focuses on soft-tissue wound healing and reconstruction. Could you share some of the latest insights or findings in this area that you think will have a significant impact on clinical approaches in the near future?

There are many exciting developments that come to mind. One is the ability to measure volumetric changes using digital measurement technology. I am convinced that this will bring significant changes to the techniques we apply in treating our patients. Additionally, on a more foundational level, I believe that in the future we will be able to use laser technology to visualise tissue beneath the mucosal surface in the oral cavity—potentially identifying true periodontal ligament fibres. Another fascinating development is Doppler ultrasonographic evaluation for measuring blood flow circulation, recently recommended by Dr Lorenzo Tavelli's group at Harvard.¹ There are indeed many intriguing advancements occurring right now.



“A major highlight this year will be the live surgery showcasing the challenging treatment of vertical hard-tissue defects.”

■ In the field of periodontics and implant dentistry, achieving optimal soft-tissue healing is critical to the success of surgical procedures. Board-certified periodontist Dr Otto Zuhr has spent decades researching soft-tissue wound healing and reconstruction. In this interview with Dental Tribune International, Dr Zuhr shares insights ahead of his lecture at this year's EAO congress, where he will explore the key surgical factors that clinicians can control to enhance wound healing outcomes.

Dr Zuhr, your lecture at this year's EAO congress focuses on surgical factors that can influence soft-tissue healing. Could you please give a brief overview of the key points you will cover in your presentation?

First of all, attendees will learn that there are various categories of risk factors that influence soft-tissue wound healing outcomes, but only some of these factors can be controlled by clinicians. From there, we

will concentrate on the risk factors that can be controlled, which are primarily related to ensuring optimal blood supply in the surgical field and maintaining the best possible stability of the wound after surgical intervention.

Soft-tissue healing is a critical aspect of periodontics and implant dentistry. Why do you believe it's essential for clinicians to have a deeper understanding of the factors that influence soft-tissue healing?

It's all about wound healing. Success or failure in reconstructive periodontal and implant surgery is primarily determined by soft-tissue wound healing outcomes. The ultimate goal, most of the time, is to achieve healing by primary intention. There are many examples of this: periodontal regeneration, successful guided bone regeneration, and soft-tissue reconstruction in areas of high aesthetic importance all rely on healing by primary intention.

The EAO congress is a prominent event for professionals in implant dentistry. What are some of the emerging trends or developments you have seen in periodontics and implant surgery that you believe will be highlighted at this year's meeting?

Looking through the programme, I have seen many intriguing topics. One key focus is the treatment of peri-implantitis, addressing questions such as how to achieve reosseointegration and the fine line between maintaining an implant or opting for removal and replacement. These are highly relevant subjects for me. Innovations in digital technologies are also always exciting. A major highlight this year will be

the live surgery showcasing the challenging treatment of vertical hard-tissue defects.

What advice would you give to clinicians looking to enhance their skills in soft-tissue management and achieve better clinical outcomes?

Those who know me understand that I'm not particularly fond of cookbook approaches or rigid clinical protocols. I believe in focusing on three key areas for self-improvement. Firstly, increasing one's knowledge by embracing lifelong learning is essential. Secondly, improving one's decision-making skills by cultivating critical thinking is crucial. Finally, manual skills are incredibly important.

I think it's essential to view manual dexterity not as an innate talent but as a motor skill that can be developed and improved at any stage, regardless of current ability. “

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Editorial note: Dr Zuhr's lecture, titled “Surgical factors that can influence soft tissue healing”, is part of the session “How can we influence soft tissue healing?”, which will be held on 25 October from 11:00 to 12:15.



Dr Otto Zuhr

is a prominent expert in periodontics and implant dentistry. He studied dentistry at RWTH Aachen University in Germany from 1986 to 1992 and later specialised and obtained board certification through the German Society of Periodontology. He operates a private practice in Munich in Germany, along with Dr Markus Hürzeler, focusing on periodontics and implant dentistry. Dr Zuhr is also an associate professor in the department of periodontics at Goethe University Frankfurt in Germany. He has authored numerous scientific articles and co-authored the highly regarded book *Plastic-Esthetic Periodontal and Implant Surgery* (Quintessence, 2012). His research primarily centres on soft-tissue wound healing and reconstruction, and he lectures internationally on these topics.

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