

Press Release:
ITI Consensus Conference 2008 – Evidence-based Guidelines for Dental Implant Therapy

Basel, September 2, 2008 – Between August 26 and 28 2008, 98 experts from the field of implant dentistry from 27 countries met at the Haus der Wirtschaft in Stuttgart, Germany for the 4th Consensus Conference organized by the International Team for Implantology (ITI). A total of 32 of the world's leading universities were represented at the meeting. The ITI is an independent academic organization with more than 6,000 members from more than 90 countries that is dedicated to the development of carefully documented guidelines to therapy based on extensive clinical testing and long-term results.

The ITI was the first academic organization to hold regular consensus conferences focusing on implant dentistry. The four conferences to date have given rise to a body of results that is highly respected throughout the world of dentistry.

ITI Consensus Conferences deal in detail with the most significant current topics in the field of implant dentistry. The aim is to examine literature from peer-reviewed journals and to determine which clinical treatment approaches are supported by a substantial body of evidence. The results come in the form of consensus statements and clinical recommendations that have been approved by all the conference participants. The consensus statements are then published in a peer-reviewed journal and serve dental professionals as a guideline to treatment, planning and execution of implant-based therapy.

“The Consensus Conferences represent an important aspect of the ITI's many activities,” commented Professor Dr. Dr. Dieter Weingart (Klinikum Stuttgart, Germany), President of the ITI. “The treatment guidelines that are developed at these conferences and then published have a determining role in the field and are eagerly awaited by the professional world. In this way the ITI Consensus Conferences make an important contribution, in accordance with our mission, to the promotion and dissemination of knowledge on all aspects of implant dentistry and related tissue regeneration through research, development and education to the benefit of the patient.”

This year's ITI Consensus Conference covered the following topics:

- Risk factors for implant treatment (Group Leader: Professor David Cochran, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, USA)
- Emerging techniques and technologies in implant dentistry (Group Leader: Professor Christoph Hammerle, University of Zurich, Switzerland)

ITI International Team for Implantology

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- Loading protocols (Group Leader: Professor Hans-Peter Weber, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Boston, USA)
- Surgical techniques (Group Leader: Dr. Stephen Chen, University of Melbourne, Australia)

Each working group comprised approximately 25 dental practitioners and researchers from every area of implant dentistry. The multidisciplinary composition of each group ensured that each topic could be covered thoroughly and evaluated from the perspective of varying needs.

The ITI is planning to publish the results of the 4th ITI Consensus Conference in an international peer-reviewed journal during the second half of 2009. The ITI's Consensus statements also form the basis of the highly successful ITI Treatment Guide series, a unique compendium of evidence-based treatment procedures in implant dentistry. The ITI Treatment Guide shows practitioners how various clinical situations can be managed in a step-by-step approach accompanied by extensive illustrative material. In doing so it emphasizes solid diagnostic procedures, evidence-based treatment approach and predictable treatment outcomes.

About the ITI

The International Team for Implantology (ITI) unites professionals around the world from every field of implant dentistry and dental tissue regeneration. As an independent academic association, it actively promotes networking and exchange among its membership. ITI Fellows and Members, who now number more than 6,000 in total, regularly share their knowledge and expertise from research and clinical practice at meetings, courses and congresses with the objective of constantly improving treatment methods and outcomes to the benefit of their patients.

The ITI is active in three principal areas: research, development and education. In more than 28 years, the ITI has built a reputation for scientific rigor combined with concern for patients. The organization strongly supports the premise of well-documented treatment guidelines backed by extensive clinical testing and the compilation of long-term results. The ITI funds research as well as Scholarships for young clinicians, organizes congresses and continuing-education events and also publishes reference books such as the ITI Treatment Guide series. www.iti.org

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