

From the Editor's Desk



Peri-implant soft tissue: a truly relevant and hot topic when it comes to the discussion and evolution of contemporary implant dentistry. Hence, it appeared appropriate to the Editorial Board to dedicate five articles to this theme, permitting each of them to address a single well-defined area in depth. Two author teams from the University of Zurich, one from a specialized clinic in Munich, and two groups from the University of Bern, with the collaboration of a Harvard School of Dentistry faculty member, kindly accepted our invitation to contribute.

First, the question whether the presence of keratinized peri-implant mucosa is absolutely necessary to achieve and maintain long-term tissue stability is revisited in the light of the most recent scientific documentation. Second, a comprehensive update is given of the possibilities to augment peri-implant soft tissue volume by presenting various types of newly developed xenografts comparing them to well established autografts.

The following two articles focus on surgical protocols to improve peri-implant soft tissue conditions, one addressing the possibilities available during implant treatment, and the other presenting measures to be taken if soft tissue recessions occur after implant therapy. The last contribution addresses the possibilities and limitations of purely prosthetically driven compensation techniques in the case of various degrees of peri-implant soft tissue deficiencies. The decision-making criteria are outlined, making use of either the so-called white restoration substrate alone or also implementing pink ceramics as an integral part of the implant supra-structure. The article also includes the presentation of the main design guidelines.

The always topical and popular Presentation and Photo Tips section continues and we are particularly grateful to the authors and their generosity in sharing their knowledge. Dr. Eduardo Lorenzana uses his specific expertise to provide valuable recommendations for how to apply alignment guides and rulers in a meaningful way when fine-tuning a state-of-the-art presentation in Apple Keynote. While Dr. Frank Lozano gives an overview of dental photography in terms of how to efficiently import and catalog images. In this context, he underlines the importance of clinicians balancing their need for how they use the images to enhance treatment against the time required for importing and cataloging them.

Finally, you will find a list of ITI Fellows at the end of this issue who have accepted to serve as external reviewers of the Forum Implantologicum. The implementation of a formal, structured peer-review process as well as the need to set up a board of highly qualified reviewers are part of the requirements towards obtaining MEDLINE/PubMed referencing. The Editorial Board selected approximately 40 individuals from among the ITI Fellows. This was not an easy task as multiple parameters such as scientific qualifications, field of expertise, reviewing experience, dedication to the ITI and last, but not least, a balanced geographical distribution had to be considered. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to extend my gratitude to these future referees for their precious support and kind consideration.

Urs Belser
Editor-in-Chief