

# From the Editor's Desk



As ever, but certainly even more so today, providing structured, evidence-based education in implant dentistry clearly represents the ITI's most important mission. In 1992, the ITI Board appointed the first ITI Education Delegate, and in 1994 the Education Committee was established. Over the past 25 years, this has been underlined by a multitude of related activities, contributions and novel initiatives. Among these one should mention ITI CE Courses, ITI Annual Seminars, national and regional ITI Congresses, the ITI World Symposium, ITI Education Weeks, the creation of a global network of ITI Study Clubs in 2010, and most recently the ITI Online Academy in 2014. The ITI's educational dedication and efforts are also documented more formally by periodically organized ITI Consensus Conferences, and the subsequent publication of the resulting Proceedings. In addition, the ITI launched

its ITI Treatment Guides series in 2007. This highly successful initiative has resulted in 10 consecutive volumes, which are provided to the membership in 10 different languages.

Effective and constantly updated education in implant dentistry permits the global dissemination of evidence-based know-how and treatment guidelines associated with one of the most predictable, long-lasting treatment modalities that contemporary dental medicine can offer today to the benefit of countless patients. It is also the sole measure to ensure the highest standards of quality control in implant patients in order to avoid jeopardizing the unique potential of implant therapy and having it discredited by an increasing incidence of biological, technical and esthetic complications. Sadly, there is general agreement that the source of implant complications is frequently the practitioner him- or herself. Conversely, it is our conviction that well educated clinicians are also able to critically assess their own clinical competence, i.e. which procedures they fully master, and which require referral to a more experienced specialist.

Based on the above reasoning, the Editorial Board of the Forum Implantologicum decided to dedicate the major part of this present issue to an updated overview of the various levels of education in the field of implant dentistry, i.e. predoctoral level, post-graduate education, continuing education, as well as online education. As expected, we found the required expertise within the ITI community and our recognition and gratitude go to the four author teams for their most valuable contributions.

Within this overall context, it also felt appropriate to publish the reports of all general and breakout sessions of the memorable ITI World Symposium 2017 in Basel in this issue. We are particularly grateful to all the moderators for having accepted our invitation to highlight the take-home messages from their sessions, complemented by their personal reflections, conclusions and perspectives.

Finally, thanks to the enthusiasm and generous willingness of the numerous invited authors to continue to contribute, the remainder of the present issue of the Forum Implantologicum follows well-established paths and patterns. As the new "Ask the experts" feature that was introduced in the last issue generated positive reactions from the readership, it was decided to invite a different group of experts to critically address a new question.

While the current issue was prepared under the leadership of Urs Belser as Editor-in-Chief, it also represents the transition of the Editorial Board leadership to Daniel Buser. We also welcome Vedrana Braut to the Editorial Board, who replaces German Gallucci, and at the same time thank German for four years of dedication to our journal.

Daniel Buser  
Editor-in-Chief

Urs Belser  
Editor-in-Chief emeritus