

Dublin conference discussed future concepts in dental implant rehabilitation



discussed when the Convention Centre Dublin opened its doors last October for the 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO).

According to the organiser, over 2,000 dental professionals participated the three-day event, which was held in the Irish capital for the second time. In addition to current issues in the field, like peri-implantitis and the challenges linked to the treatment of an increasing elderly population, the congress reflected on new developments and methods, such as computer-assisted implant rehabilitation and tissue regeneration.

Moreover, a number of sessions focused on risk factors, treatment planning and the possibilities of virtual learning techniques.

Dental rehabilitation using implants has seen significant advancements in the last decade. Trends for the future of the specialty were dis-

Up to 70 experts from Europe and around the globe were speaking at the meeting. The latest research were presented in the form of short oral





sessions and poster presentations took place between the scientific sessions.

New products for treatment outcomes that are more predictable and an improved workflow in dental practices and laboratories were presented at the industry exhibition, which was supported by 87 sponsors this year. Among others, MIS and Henry Schein presented their latest tools for a complete digital workflow. Furthermore, Danish dental solutions provider 3Shape had its recently launched TRIOS intra-oral scanning system on display. New and improved implant systems were presented by Implant Direct and a number of other companies.

In 1995, the EAO held one of its earliest meetings in Dublin. Since then, the prestigious event has taken place at 17 locations in 15 countries throughout Europe. Last year's anniversary meeting in Copenhagen saw more than 2,500 professionals participating, the number expected for the 2013 edition in Ireland. In addition to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Oral Surgery Society of Ireland, the meeting has received support from the Irish Society of Periodontology and the Prosthodontic Society of Ireland.

"In 1995, implant treatment was provided by a fairly small number of specialists and access for patients was limited," commented Dr Brian O'Connell, congress chairman and Professor of Restorative Dentistry at Trinity College Dublin's dental school and hospital.

"Now implant treatment is available in every part of the country and is provided by a wide range of practitioners. As a result, awareness has really grown among the population. (...) Europe has a generally ageing population, who may have the greatest demand and need for dental implant treatment in the future. Evidence suggests that the majority remain healthy and active for much longer than we may have believed. We need to learn much more about the specific requirements of the older population and be aware of the risks as well. Often assumptions about older people are inaccurate. Although they may be less demanding about their needs, they frequently respond well to implant treatment."

Next year's EAO annual congress will be held from 16 to 19 October in Rome. For details please visit EAO website. [_](#)

All photos courtesy of EAO.

