

International Symposium Osteology Monaco 2007

A Successful Synthesis of Research and Practical Applications

With a steadily growing attendance (Vienna 1995, eight hundred participants; Venice 1998, eight hundred; Barcelona 2001, one thousand; Lucerne 2004, two thousand), the Osteology Foundation once again set international standards at its International Symposium Osteology Monaco, 10–12 May 2007 – a scientific congress characterized by superlatives.

In recent years, some scientific events have given the impression of their attendance being reported in quite generously rounded figures. At Osteology Monaco 2007, by contrast, parts of the audience occasionally had to resort to sitting on the stairs, despite the spacious rooms of the Grimaldi Forum in Monte Carlo. 2500 participants from more than 60 countries were listening enthusiastically to the more than 80 regeneration experts from 16 countries, despite early-summer picture postcard weather and the allure of the Mediterranean beaches.

Scientists from leading universities presented up-to-date studies and scientific results on selected focal topics. Practical and easy-to-understand case reports discussed by recognized international specialists complemented the scientific part of the symposium, succeeding in linking scientific research and clinical practice in an ideal way. Each topical section covered three areas entitled *Expectation, Reality and Future*. *Expectation* addressed clinical problems and indications for which there are no satisfactory treatment concepts at this point; it defined parameters for a successful treatment design and expectations of current and future treatment concepts. *Reality* presentations documented the state-of-the-art of current surgical concepts, elaborating on new aspects of proven application technologies and referred to indications where non-techniques and materials can lead to successful outcomes. *Future* presented new concepts for the improvement of existing treatment techniques, current and future alternatives and novel materials. What trends are we facing? What treatment methods will we use in the near future? What will be the clinical advantages of future treatment concepts?



*Regeneration on stage:
The congress hall of the Grimaldi Forum in
Monte Carlo held all 2500 participants.*

In the past, voices – quiet but persistent ones – were sometimes heard expressing the fear that the “common practitioner” would leave osteology congresses humbled and humiliated rather than inspired in the presence of illustrious academics and their illustrious presentations. This time, these fears were to some extent allayed by division into “plenary sessions” and “focused sessions”. It is unlikely that any treatment provider left one of the plenary sessions without any practical and practicable advice; the focused sessions offered an opportunity to take a closer look at specific, more detailed aspects. The scientific presentations were supplemented by 20 workshops where participants were given an opportunity to gain hands-on experience implementing

the theoretical ideas presented. Important topics in Monaco included: different techniques of maxillary sinus floor elevation; revolutionary results of the research group around *Professor Jan Lindhe* from Gothenburg, Sweden, with regard to the direct placement of implants and extraction sockets and the preservation of hard and soft tissues; new results by the working groups around *Professor Jürgen Becker* of Düsseldorf, Germany, and *Professor Daniel Buser* of Bern, Switzerland, on the membrane technology and guided tissue regeneration, current methods of soft tissue management for excellent aesthetic results and – science fiction not too long ago, but now close to market introduction – growth factors and cell therapeutics (see also the detailed report by *Dr Martin Gollner* starting on page 72).

The Monaco venue, the architecturally pleasant Grimaldi Forum with its OpenView of the Mediterranean, an international welcome reception on the first night and a resounding Osteology party with fantastic artist's presentations and breathtaking fireworks over the Côte d'Azur gave ample opportunity for contacts and many stimulating discussions away from the presentations themselves.

Since the Osteology Foundation was established in the year 2003, two international and six national congresses have been held under its auspices, and it is undisputed that the series of events is one of the most highly profiled and most important events in the field of bone and tissue regeneration. More information on upcoming osteology congresses, other activities of the foundation, current research projects and expert meetings can be found at www.osteology.org. ste ■



