

Geistlich establishes Osteology Foundation

At the end of August, the company Geistlich brought the "Osteology Foundation" into being in Lucerne. This independent foundation will seek to encourage the scientific exchange of experience between university and industry in the field of tissue regeneration using biological materials in the oral and maxillofacial fields. The Foundation will take the first step in Spring 2004, with a large international symposium on this theme.

Today's developments in applied research mean new treatment options for tomorrow's patients. The successful, goal-orientated development of new products requires close collaboration between scientists and the research industry. Geistlich, together with ten leading scientists from seven countries, set up the independent Osteology Foundation on 27 August 2003 to further reinforce this co-operation. The Foundation intends to promote applied research so that new regenerative techniques can be made available at practice level more quickly and backed by sufficient testing. For this reason, the Osteology Foundation is specifically encouraging clinical research and training in the field of tissue regeneration as well as co-operation between university and industry for the benefit of research and practice.

Objective of the Osteology Foundation:

The Foundation aims to promote clinical research, apprenticeship and collaboration between university and industry in the field of tissue regeneration using biological materials. The objective is to make new techniques and products available in practices more quickly and more goal-orientatedly.

"Independent research stimulates new developments"

Since the beginning of the Nineties, Geistlich has provided financial support for a large number of scientific study projects on regeneration. Dr. Michael Peetz, Managing Director of Geistlich Biomaterials, confirms that around 50 studies have been given direct backing in the last two years alone.

Why did Geistlich also establish a Foundation? "We want to stay at the leading edge of regenerative implantology and periodontology with our biomaterials. Independent research is a challenge for a company but does provide an important impetus from outside and so stimulates new



Dr. Michael Peetz, Representative of the Founder, Geistlich Pharma AG

developments", explained Michael Peetz, Managing Director, Geistlich Biomaterials. "At the Osteology Foundation, projects are evaluated free from commercial interests. All 10 scientists on the Foundation's advisory board are internationally recognised and have many years of experience with regenerative treatment methods. In keeping with the objective of the Foundation, they will use the money based on purely scientific perspectives, and so lead the way and set new trends in an independent framework."

What are the benefits to science of the Osteology Foundation?



Prof. Christoph Hämmerle, President of the Foundation's advisory board and Director of the Clinic for Crown and Bridge Restorations at the Dental Centre of the University of Zurich, sees the chief advantage as being the creation of a platform between industry and science: "Industry has access to technology and can bring new forms of treatment and new products to market-readiness. Universities develop and test new methods and define the treatment standards. At the Osteology Foundation, we will discuss issues arising from regenerative applied research with industry and in this way exert a substantial influence on new development projects.

Of course, we should not forget the Foundation's tasks in terms of apprenticeship and communication. Here, too, I am expecting a major

benefit for clinicians and practitioners. At the end of the day, it is clinical application that determines the success of a new treatment. And the further training of dentists will be another key task of Osteology."

First step: Osteology conference in Lucerne

With the increasing number of implant restorations, more and more implant surgeons need reliable, practical solutions for hard- and soft-tissue management. Today's patients want the best possible aesthetic result, not just a stable implant. As a result, the demands on the treatment team have increased markedly. In bone regeneration today, every millimetre is crucial because the aesthetic soft-tissue result depends on the bony substrate. This is why the subject of regeneration is becoming increasingly important in everyday practice.



With the international symposium "Osteology in Lucerne", from 22 to 24 April 2004, the Foundation wishes to come to prominent public attention. In recent years, the series of international Osteology symposia have raised their profile with the central theme of regeneration. In 2004, the conference is being organised for the first time by the Foundation. In the main scientific programme, internationally

known scientists and clinicians will present the "state of the art" and the latest trends in regeneration. Besides aesthetics-orientated soft-tissue management, focal points will be the treatment of extraction sockets and a look at tissue engineering. New research results and surgical options for complex bony defects and for biological complications will also play an important role in Lucerne. The Osteology pre-conference sessions will give priority to the practical aspects in a series of workshops, and in the Implant Forum will highlight the effectiveness of and ways to improve surgical techniques using modern materials. The Foundation is expecting over 1,000 conference participants.



Flying high in regeneration at the Osteology Conference in Lucerne. As a symbol of this slogan, the adventurer Dr. Bertrand Piccard will speak at the opening ceremony. In 1999, he succeeded in becoming the first person to fly around the world in a hot air balloon.

For further information, go to: www.osteology-lucerne.com

Advisory board of the Osteology Foundation:

Prof Christoph Hämmerle, President of the advisory board, Zurich (CH)

Prof. Daniel Buser, management committee member, Bern (CH)

Prof. Niklaus P. Lang, Bern (CH)

Prof. Jan Lindhe, Gothenburg (S),

Prof. Friedrich W. Neukam, Erlangen (D),

Prof. Myron Nevins, Boston (USA)

Prof. Mariano Sanz, Madrid (E),

Prof. Massimo Simion, Milan (I)

Prof. Wilfried Wagner, Mainz (D)

Prof. Georg Watzek, Vienna (A).

Dr. Michael Peetz, representative of the founders, Wolhusen (CH)