

## International Osteology Congress 2011

# “Who’s Who” in Cannes

There is hardly another city so closely associated with the rich and the beautiful as Cannes, one of the pearls on the French Riviera and venue of the Cannes International Film Festival. But who would get weak knees looking at George Clooney’s broad smile or become tingly inside looking at Angelina Jolie’s famous lips unless they presented a row of radiant, healthy teeth safely embedded in rosy gums. So there may have been a reason why the Osteology Foundation, the international leader in the field of oral and maxillofacial regeneration, chose the city of glamour and aesthetics for its international symposium in mid-April. More than 3,000 attendees from over 70 countries enjoyed the Mediterranean ambience; they were greeted by a veritable **Who’s Who** in regenerative therapy.

There have been substantial developments in regenerative therapy in oral implantology and periodontology in recent years – away from “mere” hard-tissue augmentation and toward a comprehensive management and reconstructive approach for the bone and the soft tissues. The International Osteology Congress series has become the leading series of events when it comes to oral regeneration. From 14 to 16 April, experienced researchers and renowned practitioners presented their most recent study results and state-of-the-art treatment concepts. The pre-congress program offered a plethora of workshops – many sold out well in advance – where regenerative treatment methods were taught and discussed in a practical setting. The main scientific program on Friday and Saturday saw the top protagonists of the field passing the microphone to each other, demonstrating current therapies supported by clinical evidence and showing how risk factors should be evaluated and how complications can be treated. The preservation and restoration of natural teeth received just as much attention as did implant treatment.

In addition to guided tissue regeneration in periodontology and in oral implantology, peri-implantitis treatment options and gingival recession management were the focal issues. Several speakers complained about improper and fuzzy definitions of the term “peri-implantitis” and the resulting erroneous impression that we were dealing with a wave of infections unexpectedly attacking implant patients. “Very often, what we are really dealing with is peri-implant mucositis, which is definitely controllable”, said *Daniel Buser* (Bern), one of the two International Congress Chairmen, during the Osteology press conference. “The true challenge is peri-implant osteitis, but this condition is seen only in one of ten cases, so we should not fright-



From left to right: The chairmen *Daniel Buser, Mariano Sanz, Pascal Valentini* and *Franck Bonnet*.

en our patients and the public unnecessarily with mistaken ideas about a ‘peri-implantitis tsunami.’”

In guided tissue regeneration (GBR/GTR), non-crosslinked natural collagen membranes (Geistlich Bio-Gide) were found to be the treatment method of choice for smaller defects, which was confirmed by a recent long-term study covering 12.5 years. Looking at bone substitutes in GBR, the biofunctional and bone-like surface of deproteinized bovine bone has proved to be advantageous, as the structures facilitate the ingrowth of cells, protein absorption and cell apposition. In comparison, allogeneic bone proved to be mechanically unstable and carried a high risk of infection. Alloplastic materials, on the other hand, are less biocompatible due to their smooth surface. A question not yet answered is that of whether a mixture of the bovine material with autologous bone or the use of the bone replacement material by itself yields better performance. BMP and similar treatment approaches continue to be viewed critically, as the typical extra cost of 3,000 per case would hardly appear acceptable to the market.

Hands-on  
pre-congress  
workshop.



The much-feared loss of buccal tissue following tooth extraction cannot be prevented due to resorption of the bundle bone, being a tooth-dependent part of the alveolar ridge, but the volume loss may be alleviated by introducing a collagen-containing bovine bone replacement material. A recently concluded study demonstrated that the bony contour of the alveolar ridge can be largely preserved. Because the volume is retained, sufficient soft tissue will be available for subsequent GBR procedures. Participants of the ensuing lively discussion identified the oral surgeon him- or herself as the No. 1 risk factor, confirming the importance of high-level continuing education events such as the Osteology Congress.

Intense  
discussions.



### New funding package

The Osteology Foundation offers a new and more flexible funding package for researchers in oral and maxillofacial regeneration. Two due dates and an online application system make life easier for applicants and examiners alike. For more information please contact: Osteology Foundation, Landenbergstrasse 35, 6002 Luzern, Switzerland, Phone: +41 41 3684444, [info@osteology.org](mailto:info@osteology.org), [www.osteology.org](http://www.osteology.org)

Saturday's proceedings focused on innovative therapies and products for soft-tissue augmentation, which might soon make the use of autologous grafts unnecessary for many indications. Exciting presentations citing study results, some of them made public in Cannes for the first time, defined clear case selection and risk management criteria and showed how aesthetic challenges and complications should be handled. A novel material promoted as a replacement for connective-tissue grafts (Geistlich Muco-graft) has proven very promising in advanced studies. If confirmed, the harvesting of connective-tissue grafts from the palate, which is a great burden on the patient and carries the typical extra risk of a second procedure, might be avoided in the future. In addition, this new material may also be useful in fresh extraction sockets to prevent the dreaded dry-socket syndrome.

"The Osteology Congress is the best place to demand and receive convincing evidence in the field of tissue regeneration, and we return to our offices, clinics and universities with a feeling of reassurance", said *Mariano Sanz* (Madrid), the other International Congress Chairman. Inspiring days were highlighted by a formal welcome reception at the fabulous Chateau Napoule – how they managed to book this exclusive location will forever remain the secret of the Osteology organizers! The movie party at the legendary Palm Beach made the guests feel as if they, too, were friends with *George* and *Angie* in a way, walking under the flashbulbs of the photographers, dancing under the stars and overlooking the Mediterranean. So make sure to make room in your schedule for the anniversary Osteology Congress 2013 today!