

Monaco, 22 April 2016

CONNECTING EVERYBODY IN ORAL REGENERATION

## **THE BOX OPENED AT OSTEOLOGY MONACO**

*In April 2016, Monaco was once more the place to be for everybody interested in oral regenerative therapies, when the International Osteology Symposium attracted 2300 scientists and practitioners from all over the world. The Osteology Foundation will expand its educational activities in the future, announced the President of the Foundation, Mariano Sanz, during the event, and strive to create a global network in oral regeneration. A huge step in this direction was made with the set-up of THE BOX, the Global Osteology Community Platform, which was launched in Monaco and aims to provide not only tools and information, but also to link everybody in oral regeneration.*

From 21-23 April 2016, the International Osteology Symposium was held for the 5th time. 2300 participants from 65 countries worldwide [Note: official numbers will be announced the week after the symposium] joined the congress in Monaco, which is organised by the Osteology Foundation every three years.

Under the motto “Learning the WHY and the HOW in Regenerative Therapies”, scientists and practitioners from all-over the world attended lectures, workshops and courses. Almost all workshops were sold out, as were the Master Clinician Courses, which were held for the first time at an International Osteology Symposium and attracted large crowds.

### **THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME**

Together with the Foundation’s Education Committee, the two Chairmen of the symposium, Friedrich W. Neukam, Germany, and Myron Nevins, USA, had put together a programme addressing the many open questions that practitioners still face in everyday work in the practice.

During the symposium in Monaco, Neukam explained: “Treatment schemes and concepts, which have been applied and advocated, have to be scrutinised again and again, since knowledge – particularly in the field of regenerative therapy – has changed and will continue to do so rapidly. That’s why we continuously need to discuss the open questions.”

And Nevins added: “In presentations, interactive sessions and discussions, we will try to answer as many questions as possible with the aim to give practitioners the relevant knowledge for their daily practice, and the confidence to provide their patients with the best possible treatment. International experts will discuss many different topics in the field of oral regeneration based on evidence from research, study data, and extensive experience.”

“Discussing the WHY and HOW also includes presenting the latest results from research, so that the practitioners can orientate themselves in the science of regeneration”, explained Neukam. “Therefore the programme of the International Osteology Symposium commits a large part of its programme to science: the research forum and the poster exhibition where we have 161 posters on display”, he said.

The two Chairmen also thanked the Founding and Gold partners of Osteology Monaco 2016 as well as the exhibitors and publishing partners at the symposium. “Without their support such an event wouldn’t be possible”, they said.

With 49 exhibitors in total, a record number was achieved and places in the exhibition hall were sold out well before the event.

## **PROMOTING SCIENCE IN ORAL REGENERATION**

At the official press conference of the Osteology Foundation during the Symposium, William Giannobile, USA, Chairman of the Science Committee of the Osteology Foundation, presented news on different programmes of the Osteology Foundation promoting science.

One of the key activities is providing funding for researchers, explained Giannobile. In 2015, six advanced and five young researcher grants were granted. With these, the Osteology Foundation has now already funded 67 research projects in total since it was established in 2003. “Many of these projects have led to significant findings and publications”, he said.

Giannobile also reported that the new Research Scholarship programme, which was started in 2015, has been a great success. The Foundation has received a great number of applications from all over the world. Eight Scholars have to-date been selected: four in 2015 who have already started, and four more in 2016, who will start their scholarships soon.

The current scholars are from Brazil, Germany, Iran, USA (2015), Japan, Lithuania, and South Korea (2016) and will spend one year at one of the Osteology Research Scholarship Centres in Ann Arbor, Berne, Boston, Dusseldorf, Gothenburg, Madrid, Vienna or Zurich.

Regarding education for scientists, Giannobile announced that the Osteology Research Academy, which teaches good scientific practice and research methodology, will conduct a Core Module course in Lucerne and in Boston at Harvard University this year, as well as an Expert Module course for the first time in Vienna. For 2017, further geographical expansion is

planned with additional Core Module courses in Rio de Janeiro and Hong Kong, as well an Expert Module in Berne.

And to promote best practice in science, the Osteology Research Guidelines Books on clinical and pre-clinical research have been made available online for the Osteology community, declared Giannobile.

### **FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE OSTEOLGY FOUNDATION**

Mariano Sanz, Spain, President of the Osteology Foundation, outlined the future strategic development during the press conference. He explained that the Osteology Foundation Board will focus on providing more and better education for practitioners as well as scientists, always true to its motto “Linking Science with Practice in Regeneration”. A task group has been set up with members from the Foundation Board, Expert Council and the Foundation's Office, and they are currently working on a concept for the future.

Sanz explained that for the further development not only of educational activities, but also of the Osteology Foundation itself, geographic expansion is crucial. That is why the worldwide expansion of the Foundation's activities is also a key goal that is strongly pursued at the moment. He mentioned the Research Academy courses, which will now also be conducted in South America and Asia, as well as National Osteology Symposia, which will take place in Brazil and Ukraine in 2016, and in Australia and Spain in 2017.

To achieve these goals – i.e. the strengthening of the educational activities and the geographical development – the Osteology Foundation has also established a considerable number of extensive collaborations with universities, societies and other professional organisations worldwide. “Together we are stronger than we are alone”, Sanz said. “Therefore, we are trying to use synergies, so that everybody involved can benefit and which will allow us to provide more and better education for scientists and practitioners worldwide.”

### **GLOBAL NETWORK**

An important goal for the future strategic development is also to create a worldwide network connecting researchers and practitioners in oral regeneration on a global level.

Sanz explained that this is not easy, but a crucial development for the future and the advance of science and growth of knowledge in this field. “It is a big challenge to link scientists and practitioners in a continuously growing global context”, he said.

With this in mind, the Osteology Foundation has set up the novel Global Osteology Community Platform, THE BOX, which on the one hand provides information and tools, and on the other

also allows scientists and practitioners to link up and interact worldwide, as well as also supporting all existing activities of the Osteology Foundation online.

THE BOX was launched at Osteology Monaco and played an important role during the symposium, also making it an “online event” by offering additional online content and benefits for participants as well as everybody else who had signed up for the online platform.

### **THE BOX – WHAT IS INSIDE?**

Hector Rios, USA, Project Leader of THE BOX, explained that it was the goal of the project team to create the one place to go in oral regeneration, connecting everybody in this field, and providing new and unique benefits for scientists and practitioners.

“Practitioners can use a tool called the CASE BOX to document and evaluate clinical cases in oral regeneration”, explained Rios. The user decides whether he wants to share his cases with his network, discuss it with a colleague or keep it private. Users can also browse the public case collection.

Furthermore, THE BOX offers a novel tool for young and unexperienced scientists, the Research Wizard. “It guides the user step by step through the process of setting up a research project and redirects him to relevant resources”, explained Rios. Further information about protocols and scientific background is available in the online versions of the Osteology Research Guidelines.

“THE BOX also offers real additional benefits to the Foundation’s live symposia, not only during, but also after the event”, said Rios. At Osteology Monaco, users could access the programme online, browse all abstracts and they could also find all posters here in an online poster exhibition. The poster authors could be contacted directly, and questions to the speakers and experts were submitted online via THE BOX during the congress.

A true novel development directly linked to THE BOX was the “Audience Poster Award”, which was awarded to the poster that received the most votes online during the symposium.

Rios explained further that THE BOX also provides great networking possibilities, making it possible to interact with researchers and practitioners worldwide, to extend the personal network, to find new contacts, and join discussions with experts. Furthermore, in the personally customisable part of “My BOX” the users find the latest news and updates from their network and everything they have saved, contributed, or where they were involved with the Osteology Foundation.

Rios announced that continuous development of the platform is planned. The Foundation will create more tools and content, and also work on educational material. Rios invited every scientist and practitioner working in oral regeneration to sign up, to become part of the global

Osteology community, to help it grow and to turn it into the one place to go in oral regeneration. “And the best thing”, concluded Rios, “is that the use of THE BOX is free”.

## **WELL SET UP FOR THE FUTURE**

Sanz closed the Press Conference at Osteology Monaco with the words: “We believe we are very well set up for the future. With THE BOX we have made a first big step into the future, following our mission and vision to link all people working in oral regeneration together, with the aim to bring forward this field, and to provide better treatment for the benefit of all patients worldwide.”

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## **FURTHER RESOURCES ONLINE:**

- [www.osteology.org](http://www.osteology.org)
- [www.osteology-monaco.org](http://www.osteology-monaco.org)
- [www.box.osteology.org](http://www.box.osteology.org)

## **ABOUT THE OSTEOLGY FOUNDATION**

The Osteology Foundation’s motto is "Linking Science with Practice in Regeneration“. The foundation was established in 2003 and its core activities include funding of research projects and organisation of national and international symposia throughout the world. In recent years, the Foundation has expanded its focus. Today, it also offers courses and textbooks specifically for researchers, as well as the online platform THE BOX, which connects practitioners and scientists in the field of oral tissue regeneration worldwide, and provides tools and information.

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