

Evolution



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When I thought about writing this editorial, a mixed feeling of dichotomy and uncertainty came over me.

How, in one single issue of Dental Press Implantology, could I recall the valuable and undeniable legacy left by Prof. Brånemark and, at the same time, celebrate the recently established partnership with the International Team for Implantology (ITI) Section Brazil?

After careful consideration, it became clear that the answer is scientific progress and responsibility, the link established between these two views on Implantodontics which used to be so far apart and yet increasingly united.

When osseointegrated implants were first used, in 1981, the osseointegration science saw professor P-I. Brånemark and his philosophy as the major scientific support at that time, since he demonstrated 15 years of clinical control with success rates above 90%.

Implantodontics is what it is today thanks to Prof. Per-Ingvar Brånemark and his extensive work thoroughly documented for decades. In Brazil, we had the great opportunity to have a close relationship and learn with Prof. P-I, as he was affectionately called by his friends and contributors Dr. Laércio Vasconcelos and Prof. Carlos Francischone who gave Dr. Hugo Nary and I, among other colleagues, the opportunity to share the expertise of this genius in the health field, who left us at the end of 2014.

A special article on the legacy left by Prof. Brånemark is the highlight of the current issue. I invite all readers to read and pay homage to him, as without Prof. Brånemark's scientific and clinical knowledge we would not be talking about and treating our patients by means of osseointegration techniques.

Let us press the 30-year "fast-forward" button. Presently, the major themes related to implant treatment are no longer those taught by Brånemark, but an evolution of them. The six basic factors established by Brånemark and coworkers in 1981 remain valid and in use. Nevertheless, the importance of nano-scale surface roughness and internal conical connections, platform switching implants and different

restorative emergence profiles are common research themes in current Implantodontics. In fact, a renowned group that began in Switzerland in the 60s under Prof. Andre Schroeder's leadership and which is now known as ITI (International Team for Implantology) harps on these same subjects.

The evolution of osseointegration taught us that external hexagon implants and smooth surfaces yield good results which, on the other hand, can be improved with the use of machined surfaces and internal conical connections. Lines of research with which ITI has always studied and worked.

Initially bound to a single implant manufacturer, the ITI, a nonprofit association and foundation, was set up in Switzerland and, in the last few years, has become the greatest Implantodontics association worldwide. Today it counts with more than 15,000 members from all around the world and nearly 1,000 members in Brazil. The ITI Brazil has become the major professional association in Brazilian Implantodontics and, together with the Brazilian College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the Brazilian Association of Periodontology (SOBRAPE), one of the greatest specialists associations.

The aforementioned factors led Dental Press publishers to establish an institutional partnership with this new active professional association: ITI Brazil. The positive aspects are evident: a large number of Brazilian members, a reliable professional association focused on education and a demanding and high-quality target audience; all of which contribute to raise the already high level of this journal.

However, how can we explain to Implantology readers that the journal will maintain its scientific and editorial integrity without becoming a tendentious journal publishing articles that favor a single implant manufacturer, only?

It is simple: The answer is the evolution of Implantodontics as well as earnest publishing and manuscript selection processes.

Despite being the official journal of ITI Brazil, we shall keep a board comprising reliable, responsible independent reviewers. Articles about evidence on any implant and biomaterial manufacturers are welcomed. We encourage everyone to send us manuscripts, whether ITI members or not.

We will uphold professor Brånemark's earnest and philosophy which led us to establish a partnership with ITI, both of which share the following: professional development of clinicians and professors; respect for patients; scientific-based treatment; quest for ongoing evolution; improvements in diagnosis and treatment tools; reliability and integrity in professional-patient relationship.

Following these topics, we ensure not to take sides between Brånemark and the ITI. We will be simply following the evolution of science in the search for better results and patients' well-being.

I am certain that if Prof. P-I. Brånemark and Prof. Andre Schroeder were able to see this current issue, they would be proud of such an evolution, as they would see that we are seeking what they taught for years: earnest and scientific progress with the best treatment possible provided to our patients performed by means of the osseointegration technique.

Enjoy all articles, we will see you soon!

Waldemar Polido
Editor-in-chief