IDS reaffirms its leading position as global dental trade fair

This year exceeds previous results, increases internationality and quality.

Dental Tribune International met with Hans Geiselhöringer, President of Nobel Biocare, at the 2019 IDS to discuss the company’s latest innovations, its upcoming Global Symposium in Madrid, and what he sees as its future focus.

Mr Geiselhöringer, a point of emphasis for Nobel Biocare at IDS 2019 was implant surfaces, with the company taking the opportunity to launch the Xeal abutment surface and the TiUltra implant surface. How does TiUltra build upon the success of the TiUnite implant surface?

Well, there are several aspects to take into account when discussing implant surfaces. Over the decades-long history of implantology, there have been many different types of implant surfaces presented, including machined and anodised. As leading innovators in the industry, we had both machined implants and implants with the moderately rough TiUnite surface, which now has a wealth of science behind it and is one of the most clinically researched surfaces on the market.

This overall success showed the superiority of our implant surface, but also demonstrated the important role that research plays at Nobel Biocare. We invested further into basic research to understand even better the early integration processes, which eventually led us to create two new implant surfaces, Xeal and TiUltra, that cater for the specific needs of each area and surface of the restoration. TiUltra, specifically, has a surface topography that changes gradually to become moderately rough towards the implant apex and surface chemistry designed to positively interact with cells and improve osseointegration.

Along those lines, a key indicator of implant success has been osseointegration. However, Nobel Biocare is promising to go beyond this with the Mucointegration era. How do Xeal and TiUltra allow for this era to commence?

Given that we have more than 100,000 TiUnite implants documented in clinical studies, we know that implant success is influenced by various factors, such as implant placement, maintenance protocol and prosthetic design.

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“Innovation backed by science”

An interview with Hans Geiselhöringer, President of Nobel Biocare

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The Nobel Biocare Global Symposium, where the new Nobel Biocare N1 implant concept will be presented, seems to be just around the corner. What can dental professionals look forward to when joining us in Madrid? Based on the extensive clinical experience our key experts have gained with the Nobel Biocare N1 implant concept, I am convinced that what we will be showing in Madrid is the next chapter in dental technology. We have designed this system working with an international network of researchers and clinicians, and during the course of its development, we have consistently surpassed our own very high expectations. I believe that the Nobel Biocare N1 system’s biologically driven design presents a breakthrough in our understanding of how implant placement and prosthetic procedures can be achieved with a streamlined digital workflow.

In addition, Engel said that the success of IDS 2019 had once again underlined the significance of the dental industry as a major economic driver. “A local dentist employs between four and five employees on average. Trained dental employees are the heart of every dental practice—without them a practice wouldn’t work. Skilled dental employees therefore require recognition as well as inspiration and know-how,” he pointed out. Dominik Kruebchen, President of the association of German dental technicians (Verband Deutscher ZahntechnikerInnen), also an IDS partner, added, “IDS has demonstrated at what speed the digital dental world is developing. One has to be wary of the risks, recognize one’s own opportunities and make investment decisions based on good judgement.”

Touching on the role of dental laboratories, Kruebchen commented that master dental technicians and their teams are irreplaceable experts in the provision of dental restorations. “Well-trained young professionals are important for a strong dental technology trade. Highly trained young dental technician apprentices once again impressively demonstrated their skills at this year’s IDS in the scope of the Gysi prize competition,” he pointed out.

You have been President of Nobel Biocare for a little over three years at this point and have been with the company for more than a decade. How has the company changed in this time, and what do you see as its future point of focus?

Going forward, our focus remains on the development of innovations which address customer needs and are backed by science. A clear aim for us is to improve procedures and the dental workflow as much as possible, in order to provide clinicians with forward-thinking solutions that allow for immediate function and shorter treatment times, while at the same time supporting long-term maintenance and aesthetics. Going beyond just the improvement of existing solutions, N1 is really a ground-breaking innovation that will set new standards in the industry. We have many more innovations to come in the future, and I look forward to presenting these in due time with the assistance of our excellent team here at Nobel Biocare.

Carrying on the tradition of recognising and facilitating the social commitments made by the dental industry, the German dental association’s conference of aid organisations was also held at the event in Cologne. The organisers commented that the conference is a source of ideas for developing and strengthening dental aid projects, and functions as a forum for discussion and personal exchange. Around 60 dental aid projects and organisations are currently represented within the network of aid organisations both monetary and in-kind support. Overseas, many dental aid organisations are engaged in international projects that provide assistance in acute humanitarian situations such as natural disasters and in regions suffering crises. As IDS 2019 has shown, the dental industry is experiencing growth and is in a strong position to continue its important social engagements.

The 39th IDS is scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 March 2021.
Smile for the World – since 1921 towards a Century of Health.

IDS 2019 is over and we would like to thank all the people that visited us. It has been wonderful to share this experience with all of you. Thank you for being with us!

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A European perspective on opportunities and challenges for the dental profession

An editorial by Dr Marco Landi, President of the Council of European Dentists

The Council of European Dentists (CED) has expressed great concern about the pressures that both the liberal profession and its patients are facing. Purely market-driven dental chains put patient safety at risk through mismanagement and mistreatment of patients and employees. While advertising by dentists is tightly regulated, dental chains are able to take a more aggressive approach. Therefore, national legislators have a responsibility to put patients first and ensure that they receive the oral care they deserve.

The CED is a European not-for-profit association, previously known as the EU Dental Liaison Committee, that represents over 340,000 dentists across Europe. Its objectives include promoting high standards of oral health, dentistry and dental care, contributing to safeguarding public health and promoting the interests of the dental profession in the EU. To this end, the CED has worked tirelessly over the years on improving EU legislation and putting issues that concern dentists on the political agenda. These include matters as diverse as professional qualifications, patient safety, health workforce planning, antimicrobial resistance, dental materials and e-health.

The dental profession and dental services are constantly evolving. New technology, new materials and new devices create both immense opportunities and great challenges. On the one hand, dentists nowadays must be more digitally savvy, follow strict data protection regulations and work within the constraints of tight health care budgets. On the other hand, they have access to more research, better instruments and improved materials.

Despite all these developments, the CED’s guiding principles remain the same: Europeans should have access to high-quality oral healthcare, which must be provided by well-trained, skilled and fully competent dentists using the latest and most appropriate technology with an evidence-based approach. The CED, therefore, strives to ensure that the dental profession continues to be adequately regulated and that today’s dental teams can face new challenges and provide patients with the best possible treatment.

It must be stressed that dentists and other healthcare professionals provide a unique service. Provision of healthcare is not a commodity and falls outside of the market-driven supply and demand logic of other regulated professions, such as those of plumbers, ski instructors or translators. Unfortunately, some regulators do not differentiate and try to apply competitive free-market ideology to dentistry, either because of budget pressures or for political motives.

With this in mind, the CED has noted with concern the latest developments regarding corporate dentistry in Europe. Organisations, usually run by investment companies, are setting up dental offices in a number of locations, either in a single country or across a number of different countries, often motivated more by creating a return on investment than by delivering good dental care to patients. Frequently, these organisations are headed by a manager who is not a dentist, and the dentists are relegated to the role of employees. The CED is concerned that the commercial interests which are driving the business model of such organisations may impact patient safety overall through a variety of factors, including poor treatment, unsatisfactory employment conditions and inadequate provision of care. Incidents in Spain and France have shown upsetting examples of some dental chains’ disregard for patient safety. Patients were left without proper care and, in some instances, even harmed. To draw attention to these worrying developments, the CED (General Meeting) adopted a resolution on corporate dentistry in Europe in November 2018.

Advertising of dental services is another widely discussed issue in Europe. The European Court of Justice issued a preliminary ruling in May 2017 in which it concluded that the overall prohibition of advertising is excessive, but that the protection of health may be an objective that justifies advertising restrictions. The Court considered that promoting inappropriate or unnecessary care, misleading patients, damaging the image of the profession and distorting the relationship between dentist and patient undermine the protection of health and compromise the dignity of the profession. While dentists are bound by national legislation, regulations or codes of conduct setting out rules for advertising by healthcare professionals, dental chains are not. Anecdotal evidence shows that some chains try to recruit patients through more aggressive marketing focused on prices and payment plans. It is up to national legislators to put an end to this to ensure that patients are not misled and that they receive the oral care that they deserve.

The CED is proud to represent 340,000 dentists across Europe and we are already ready to seize the opportunities and face the challenges that the present and future hold for oral health and dentistry.
Surface chemistry cells can’t resist.

Introducing Xeal and TiUltra – two new breakthrough surfaces derived from our decades of applied anodization expertise. From abutment to implant apex, we have reimagined surface chemistry and topography to optimize tissue integration at every level. We’ve now entered the Mucointegration™ era.

The new Xeal surface is now available for the On1™ Base and the Multi-unit Abutment. TiUltra is available on our best selling NobelActive® and NobelParallel™ CC implants.

nobelbiocare.com/surface
American region and beyond to discuss further collaboration and recap the activities of the previous days. The main event of the evening was, however, the announcement of a new agreement between DTI and the São Paulo dental association (Associação Paulista de Cirurgiões-Dentistas, APCD) in Brazil. APCD is the organiser of the São Paulo International Dental Meeting (CIGSP), the largest such event in Latin America. Oemus announced the marketing and educational agreement together with APCD President Dr Wilson Chediek and International Director Dr Marcos Capez. DTI and APCD have been collaborating for several years now, mostly in the international marketing of CIGSP, for which DTI produces the daily paper CIGSP today together with APCD.

**W&H held several “Walk & Hands-on Tours” at IDS**

At IDS 2019, Austria-based company W&H decided not to host one large press conference, but rather to invite the press to attend specially styled “Walk & Hands-on Tours”. Held at different times throughout the trade fair at the W&H booth, the tours allowed participants to get up close and personal with the latest products released at the fair. On Wednesday, Dental Tribune International attended an afternoon tour.

Simon Niedermüller, Director of Business Management, led the tour. Besides a number of products that the company had on display, W&H launched its latest cloud-based technology, the uDent system. The ioDent platform is an Internet of Things platform connecting different W&H products, from our implantology products through to our sterilisers, but also provides service support to the clinics,” explained Niedermüller. With many features, the new platform’s intuitive interface enables the user to redefine all the treatment details, implant positions and necessary programme steps, which are customised for each patient and can be planned and configured prior to the treatment.

Other products showcased during the tour and launched at IDS for the first time were the new Lisa and Lara sterilisers, and a new prophylaxis portfolio.

For more information on W&H, visit www.wh.com

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