

Partnership with ITI

Science provides the basis for our commitment to the quality of our products and services. Straumann is the exclusive partner of the ITI – an independent academic organization dedicated to research, development, and professional education in implant dentistry.

Strong scientific basis

One reason for Straumann's strong market position today is its long-standing, close cooperation with the ITI (International Team for Implantology). Founded in 1980, the ITI is an independent academic organization that promotes research, development, and professional training in the area of implant dentistry and related fields. Today, the ITI is a growing global network of more than 350 scientists and practitioners. At the ITI Consensus Conferences, members jointly establish guidelines for high-quality treatment based on the most recent results of clinical practice – with the aim of continuously improving treatment outcomes and offering the best solution to every patient.

Research, development, and professional training with experienced specialists

According to its own estimates, the ITI is the world's largest non-governmental organization to award research scholarships in implant dentistry. The ITI Research Committee is a panel of internationally-recognized specialists that allocates research grants twice a year; to date, the ITI has spent more than CHF 19 million on research projects in the field of implant dentistry.

The ITI Education Committee awards scholarships to young clinicians to help them study implant dentistry, and to learn about Straumann products in particular, at one of the ITI's 15 Scholarship Centers in Europe and North America. Since the introduction of the scholarship program in 1988, the ITI has enabled 56 post-graduate dentists from 26 countries to study the basics of dental implant treatment methods for one year with an experienced member of the ITI. The ITI program makes a significant contribution to education, especially as implant dentistry is still not part of the core curriculum for dentists at many universities. The aim is for ITI scholars to continue spreading the ITI philosophy around the world once they have finished their studies, to qualify as ITI speakers, and to become active members of the ITI network.

Thanks to the ITI, Straumann can produce independent clinical data on its implant system going back 20 years. Straumann's implant system is one of the scientifically best-documented systems in implant dentistry with more than 3,000 scientific publications. All Straumann products are clinically tested and reviewed by the ITI Development Committee before they are launched on the market. This means that Straumann exceeds the statutory requirements specified in the "Medizinproduktegesetz" (the Medical Products Act) as well as the FDA. This also helps the Company to ensure that only products that provide our customers with a real clinical benefit are developed.

Focus on patients' wellbeing

The cooperation with the ITI gives Straumann direct access to the results of the ITI research and to the most experienced users of its implant system. At its Annual General Meeting in 2003, the ITI resolved to adapt its organization to meet the needs of a fast-growing global network of specialists. The ITI intends to strengthen its existing local sections in 2004 and establish new sections in various countries. The ITI will also publish the second edition of its Consensus Paper in 2004, which its members drew up at their Consensus Conference in Gstaad at the end of August 2003. This paper offers the most up-to-date guidelines for dental implant treatment available.

Straumann considers its cooperation with the ITI to be extremely valuable and will enhance this partnership in order to achieve the common goal of continuous improvement in dental implant treatment methods. After all, the top priorities for the members of the ITI and for Straumann are the same – successful treatment methods and the wellbeing of the patients.