



# DR. CHRISTOPH HAMMERLE

## PROFILE

Department Chairman, Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry, Dental Materials Science and Implant Dentistry, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Christoph Hammerle is certified in prosthodontics and periodontics. His clinical and scientific interest lie on biological and technological aspects of the comprehensive treatment of complex, partially edentulous patients applying all available options of reconstructive dentistry including dental implants. Prof. Hammerle is or has been a board member of various scientific organizations notably: European Association for Osseointegration (EAO), Osteology Foundation, Swiss Society for Reconstructive Dentistry, Continental European Division of the IADR, International Team for Implantology Switzerland (ITI), Dental Campus Association. He has received an honorary doctor from the University of Athens, Greece, honorary membership of the European Association for Osseointegration, and the Jerome M. and Dorothy Schweitzer Research Award of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics. Christoph Hammerle has published more than 300 scientific articles and has an H-factor of 72. He has lectured widely internationally.

## Soft Tissue Management: Timing and Techniques for Predictable Success

In mucogingival therapy soft tissue related surgical interventions have successfully been applied for many years. Based on a recent meta-analysis autogenous soft tissue grafts provide the best results and are thus considered the gold standard. These methods have been applied for coverage of facial recessions at implants and teeth, to increase the area of keratinized soft tissue at implants, and to augment soft tissue volume for functional and esthetic purposes. Regarding soft tissue volume augmentation at implants, several factors have been identified as critical for obtaining reliable final outcomes. These factors encompass the location of the implant, presence or absence of adjacent teeth, height and width of the bone crest, mucosal thickness and scalloping. In spite of the documented clinical success in many indications, autogenous soft tissue grafts are associated with some shortcomings. The major shortcoming appears to be the concomitant patient morbidity originating from all transplantations of autogenous tissue. Hence, recent research has been aimed at developing autogenous soft tissue graft replacements. One group of materials are collagenous compounds derived from various origins and processed utilizing different methodologies. Results published so far have shown encouraging results indicating the future possibility to avoid harvesting and transplanting autogenous soft tissues, while still achieving the same clinical benefits for the patients. The optimal choice of different clinical strategies and various materials for soft tissue augmentation is a multifactorial and demanding clinical process.