

Philadelphia Periodontist Dr. Robert A. Levine, Part of Worldwide Committee to Develop the Future of Dental Implantology



Dr. Robert A. Levine ITI Consensus Conference on Implant Dentistry.

Every five years since 1993, the International Team of Implantology (ITI) gathers together the “best and brightest” from around the world to create consensus in treatment protocol for the rapidly evolving field of implant dentistry. While some other areas of medicine are starting to create similar programs, ITI was the first organization of its kind — a nonprofit scientific association — to establish and fund a worldwide forum designed for the sole purpose of establishing evidence-based treatment protocols and predictable outcomes that are then shared with the dental profession across the globe.

Dr. Levine the founder and Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Dental Implants & Periodontics, was one of only 17 Americans selected to participate in this prestigious gathering. Over 27 other countries from around the world — from as far away as Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa and the Americas — were represented among the 99 participants in the three-day conference, held in Stuttgart, Germany, during the last week of August 2008.

This year’s conference was divided into four areas of concentration: risk factors for implant treatment, surgical techniques,

loading protocols (in which Dr. Levine participated) and new horizons in implantology, which focused on breakthrough technologies and innovative therapies that will most likely form the foundation for the future of implant care.

“We worked between 10 to 12 hours a day, reviewing hundreds of research papers and articles in peer-reviewed journals, to find the best studies in each area which passed rigorous criteria to be included,” explained Dr. Levine. “We are particularly focused on a certain amount of clear clinical evidence that can support the recommendations in these papers.” At the end of the conference, each group created “consensus statements” and summary review papers about their particular area of concentration, which were then presented to all conference participants for further discussion and debate. The final consensus statements and review papers had to be accepted by the majority of the conference participants before they were considered final.

The intensity of the process is a reflection of the dedication of the conference participants to the advancement in quality care throughout the profession. “As a first-time participant, I found the process to be truly inspiring,” said Dr. Levine. “The passion and scientific rigor that these participants brought to the table were stirring, and there is no doubt that patients around the world will benefit from our combined efforts for years to come.”

The final review papers and consensus statements will be published next year in a special supplement of *The International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial*

Implants, the publication of the Academy of Osseointegration, the nation’s oldest and most respected dental implant organization. The consensus statements also form the basis of the highly successful ITI treatment guide series, a unique compendium of evidence-based treatment procedures in implant dentistry.

Dr. Levine is considered one of the foremost authorities on dental implants in the country. A Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, he served as chairman emeritus of the division of periodontics at the Albert Einstein Medical Center from 1984 to 2004. Currently, he’s clinical associate professor in postgraduate periodontics, perio-prosthesis and implantology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Levine has also held teaching positions in the postgraduate department of fixed prosthodontics at Temple University School of Dentistry and Nova SE University School of Dentistry. Founder of the Northeast Philadelphia Dental Implant Study Club, he has served as Chairman since 1984. He is a Fellow of the ITI and a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (one of only 42 dentists who have been honored with this distinction, out of a total membership of 1,500 Fellows from the medical community). He is a 1981 graduate of Temple University School of Dentistry and received his Certificate in Periodontology from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine in 1984. A native of Holland, PA, he is married to Bucks County pediatric dentist Dr. Sheryl Radin and has two children. ■