

Less Is More

The International College of Prosthodontics (ICP) was founded by visionary Prosthodontists in 1984 and supported by the European Prosthodontic Association, the American College of Prosthodontists, and the British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry. The ICP has steadily evolved since and is readily acknowledged as a global leader in the discipline.

The College's original mandate was to recruit and include a global body comprising specialist prosthodontists from diverse educational cultures who shared a common goal of advancing the art and science of prosthodontics. What continues to define the organization today and what it stands for globally can be best described in terms of both what it does and the context in which its agenda is fulfilled.

Leadership of the ICP functions via an internationally represented board of councillors. The goals of the ICP are achieved with an operational focus on conducting biennial scientific meetings that promote academic and clinical excellence, recognition of *The International Journal of Prosthodontics* (IJP) as its official publication, the sponsoring of educational programs, and providing research grants to early career prosthodontic researchers. The ICP continues to support the IJP/Karlsruhe Workshops for Young Prosthodontic Educators (YPE), and together with the Ivoclar Vivadent Corporation, provides a 1-year research fellowship (The Ivoclar Vivadent / ICP Research Fellowship in Dental Restorative Materials).

In recent years, the ICP has also endorsed the teaching of the unique requirements of dental patients with special needs. This includes emphasis on management of geriatric patients' specific oral health needs and its ongoing commitment to the clinical spectrum of discipline-driven skills. The College's mandate continues to prioritize clinical teaching excellence while emphasizing treatment recommendations determined by patient-focused outcomes.

It must be emphasized that the ICP does not represent Prosthodontists as a political lobby group, nor does it advocate for Prosthodontists in any national or international forum to advance local specialty-related interests. It is neither a specialist prosthodontic accreditation body, nor does it seek to impose minimum mandatory education requirements for specialist recognition by any state or country. It is a unique organization that seeks to reconcile personal professional development with an eclectic and egalitarian educational agenda.

Current digital technology is readily applied in preprosthodontic implant surgery and includes computer-aided design/computer-assisted manufacture (CAD/CAM), which already plays a significant role in the discipline's continued development and the optimization of patients' dental needs. As routine clinical, imaging, and surgical techniques advance, a virtual revolution in dental materials science is rapidly changing the face of prosthodontics. This has already resulted in high-quality manufacture of prostheses that require less clinical experience and skill. There has been a parallel rise in the promotion of these merits for dental health providers with an accompanying emphasis on the speed and ease of delivery. Such technology-focused treatment interventions already drive promotion and marketing strategies that are increasingly and directly aimed at patients. This is understandable when new and exciting technologies emerge with the potential to simplify work practices with predictable manufacture of cost-efficient products. The escalating reliance and dependence on these technologies suggest that more complex and invasive treatment interventions can be delivered by more practitioners with fewer years of clinical experience and less clinical training.

The ICP recognizes the professional treatment implications of such rapid changes and is determined to play a leadership role that continues to renew and emphasize the need for an explicit patient focus in all types of clinical interventions. The discipline's core principle is a clear understanding of patient needs and to address all accrued clinical data via the least invasive and simplest treatment solutions. The ICP Board of Councillors has recognized this challenge and directed the Scientific Program Committee to adopt a theme of "Less Is More" for the 2017 Biennial Scientific Meeting in Santiago, Chile.

While the founding goal of the ICP is a collective clinical educational journey, it also offers exceptional scope for the sort of international fellowship that has become a delightful feature of all ICP Biennial Scientific meetings. As Co-Presidents, we extend a very warm welcome to all who appreciate the ICP's educational commitment to attend the September 7–9, 2017 meeting in Santiago, Chile. We promise you an exciting and informative international prosthodontic experience and look forward to meeting you.

Mario Bresciano
Brian Fitzpatrick



Mario Bresciano is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontists and a Member of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics. He was Co-Director of the Master Course in Prosthetic Dentistry at the University of Torino, Italy, and he now maintains a full-time private practice in Torino. Dr Bresciano is involved in continuing education and clinical research on prosthetic and implant dentistry.

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