



A Milestone for Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry: Reflections on the First Global Consensus for Clinical Guidelines Workshop in Boston, June 16–18, 2025

From June 16 to 18, 2025, Boston, USA, became the setting for a landmark event in our specialty: the first-ever Global Consensus for Clinical Guidelines (GCCG) workshop. This pioneering, evidence-based international initiative in implant dentistry was a true global and collaborative approach organized and led by one scientific association, the European Association for Osseointegration (EAO), and two foundations, the International Team for Implantology (ITI) and the Osteology Foundation (OF), and was performed in partnership and collaboration with the Chinese Stomatological Association (CSA), the Japanese Society of Oral Implantology (JSOI), the Korean Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Implantology (KAOMI), the Oral Reconstruction Foundation (ORF), the Osseointegration Society of India (OSI), and the Brazilian Society of Periodontology (SOBRAP).

The aim was to establish practical, patient-centric recommendations for the rehabilitation of the edentulous maxilla. The workshop brought together prosthodontists, periodontists, surgeons, researchers, educators, and allied specialists from around the world to undertake something both ambitious and long overdue—developing globally relevant, evidence-informed, and collaboratively derived clinical guidelines.

The GCCG was conceived from a simple but profound recognition: while implant prosthodontics is practiced globally, it has long lacked truly international, consensus-based clinical protocols which apply to all involved domains (ie, prosthodontics, periodontology, and oral and maxillofacial surgery). Variations in technique, treatment planning, and even definitions are common—not necessarily because of meaningful differences in patient populations, but often because of fragmented evidence bases, local traditions, and a lack of structured dialogue among global leaders. The GCCG aims to change that.

An Initiative Rooted in Vision and Collaboration

Importantly, this initiative reflects the vision of Professor Ronald Jung (past President of the EAO and current President of the ITI), who championed the need for a global consensus-building effort during his tenure as EAO President. His leadership helped catalyze this first step toward genuine international alignment in clinical guidelines.

The Boston workshop itself was determined to developing guidelines on one focused clinical indication—the treatment of the edentulous maxilla. The scientific process of the guidelines development happened under the scientific leadership of Professors Frank Schwarz (EAO Board member and future OF President) and Hom-Lay Wang (past President of the Academy of Osseointegration, AO), together with Professor Ina Kopp (Director of the Association of the Scientific Medical Societies' Institute for Medical Knowledge Management [AWMF_IMWi] at Philipps-University in Marburg, Germany). Their guidance ensured the process was methodologically

doi: 10.11607/ijp.2025.4e

rigorous, evidence-informed, and inclusive of diverse global perspectives.

About the Boston Workshop

For 3 days in Boston, invited international experts engaged in intensive evidence review, structured debate, and formal consensus-building exercises in four separate groups. The groups' work was supported by previously developed and accepted systematic reviews and Delphi surveys to obtain the patient and clinician perspectives on the topic, as well as the one of the industrial stakeholders.

The groups' work was discussed in the plenum, and votes took place to obtain consensus for the presented guidelines. The goal was not simply to produce a single static document but to launch an ongoing, iterative process. This first workshop focused on establishing a transparent methodologic framework for developing the clinical guidelines for the treatment of edentulous maxillae and also on identifying the most pressing priority topics in implant prosthodontics needing further research.

The process was intentionally rigorous and open. Participants were encouraged to question assumptions, highlight evidence gaps, and consider the practical realities clinicians face in varied settings around the world.

The workshop brought together a truly global assembly of 120 experts representing North America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and beyond. Experienced clinicians and leading researchers worked alongside early-career academics and specialists, reinforcing intergenerational exchange and the diversity of perspectives essential to meaningful consensus.

This initiative is visionary in its potential. By systematically aligning expertise from across the globe, the GCCG can reduce unwarranted variation in care, improve treatment outcomes, identify shared research priorities, and elevate the standard of implant prosthodontic care

worldwide. It also offers a model for how our specialty can respond to rapid technologic change, new biomaterials, and evolving patient expectations with unity rather than fragmentation.

The Boston workshop was only the beginning. The developed consensus statements will undergo further refinement and broader peer review before global dissemination by two renowned Publishers, who collaborate this way for the first time—Quintessence Publishing and Wiley. The GCCG process emphasizes that guidelines must be living documents—regularly updated as evidence and clinical practice evolve.

Seven future consensus workshops are planned, and the next one (in 2 years) is already in preparation.

Reflecting on this first workshop, it is clear that the visionary initiative of the GCCG represents more than an academic exercise. It is a strong step toward making our field more cohesive, evidence-driven, and patient-centered. For implant dentistry and prosthodontics to realize its full potential as a global specialty, such collaborative efforts are not just welcome—they are essential.

As clinicians, specialists and general practitioners, we must applaud and support the GCCG's efforts. We now have the opportunity to define best practices not in isolation but in true partnership, advancing care for our patients wherever they live. The Boston workshop will be remembered as the moment that opportunity began to take shape!

On behalf of the entire Editorial Board team,



Irena Sailer, Editor-in-Chief