“Many people have worked extremely hard to compile an excellent scientific programme…”

What other outcomes can we expect from this congress, and what are your personal expectations?

As part of the congress, the results and conclusions from the EAO’s third consensus conference will be presented. The conference, which was held earlier this year, identified four key areas for discussion: implant survival and complications; peri implant tissue destruction; computer-aided therapy and soft- and hard-tissue aspects; and reconstructions on implants. Its main conclusions and clinical recommendations will be presented in Copenhagen and be made available to the public through Clinical Oral Implants Research.

I believe the congress will be a successful meeting, facilitating the exchange of ideas and information between participants.

Many people have worked extremely hard to compile an excellent scientific programme and I am certain that great efforts will result in a memorable anniversary meeting.

Prof. Schou, thank you very much for this interview.

Imaging guidelines revised

The EAO has recently updated its guidelines on the use of diagnostic imaging in implant dentistry by extending them to cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT). Their aim is to optimise both conventional radiography and new procedures and to address the As Low As is Reasonably Achievable principle (ALARA) by focussing on patient welfare and safety with regard to minimising their exposure to ionising radiation.

They were drawn up to support radiologists, as well as dentists and their assistants, in primary care, the organisation said.

“The field of diagnostic imaging is often both very technical and complex. I believe these EAO guidelines provide a very easily accessible, practical and authoritative approach to the area and offer useful guidance to dentists to help them fulfil their obligations, to act always in the best interests of their patients, as well as to be aware of their ethical and legal responsibilities,” said Prof. David Harris, lecturer at the Trinity College Dublin Dental School and Hospital and chair of the EAO panel of 14 radiologists and clinicians from all over Europe that convened at the Medical University of Warsaw in May 2011.

According to the panel, all diagnostic imaging carries a risk however small; nevertheless, in implant dentistry, it is considered essential to patient evaluation for proposed surgical treatment, the investigation of certain complications and prosthodontic planning. The experts therefore highlighted that it is necessary to reduce any radiation dose according to the ALARA principle and to ensure that the examination of each patient is always justified and results in a net benefit to the patient. Available alternative techniques with the same objective but involving less or no exposure to ionising radiation must also be taken into account, they said.

The EAO approached the revision of its 2002 guidelines after SEDENTEXCT, a collaborative EU research project on the sound and scientifically based clinical use of CBCT in dental imaging, had recommended in 2009 that the association review its previous guidelines to take into account the increasing demand for CBCT in dental practice in recent years.