Implant dentistry has advanced rapidly over the last 30 years. ITI, which stands for International Team for Implantology, has played a significant role in this process. As an independent academic organization, it is dedicated to advancing knowledge in the field of implant dentistry which has earned it the reputation as a leading provider of educational principles and treatment methods that are oriented to evidence-based science. Recently, the South East Asia Section of the ITI has announced its first ever congress to be held next year in Thailand. The congress will be held from May 16 to 17, 2013, in Bangkok and offer an aesthetics-driven programme led by Profs. Daniel Buser and Urs Belser, two world-renowned Swiss clinicians. It will also feature a number of highly respected regional speakers, the organization said.

Since its implementation last year, the South East Asia Section has formed seven ITI Study Clubs and organised educational Study Club meetings in several South East Asia countries including Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. It is also planning to expand the number of ITI Study Clubs from currently seven to ten.

Founded in August 2011, the South East Asia Section currently has 187 Members and 22 Fellows. It is led by oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dato’ Dr Sharifah F Alhabshi (Section Chairperson) from Malaysia and supported by dental professionals from the region including Dr Alvin Yee (Education Delegate), a consultant periodontist from Singapore, a consultant prosthodontist Dr Chatchai Kunavisarut (Study Club Coordinator) from Thailand and cosmetic dentistry specialist Dr Yip Chi Cheong (Communications Officer) from Malaysia.

In addition to the South East Asia Section, the ITI currently has 26 further Sections around the world. Founded in 1980, the ITI says to have currently more than 12,000 members in over 100 countries. The mission of this global non-profit organisation is to promote and disseminate knowledge on all aspects of implant dentistry and its associated fields to improve the quality of treatment to the benefit of patients.

The ITI offers grants to young dentists, holds congresses, offers a variety of continuing education courses and publishes reference books in nine languages. Every three to four years the ITI organises its global congress, the ITI World Symposium. The latest of these meetings in 2010 drew over 4,000 participants to Geneva in Switzerland. At a local level, the 27 Sections organise congresses, regular Study Clubs meetings, courses and Section meetings in order to give as many clinicians as possible access to evidence-based treatment guidelines.

ITI Members enjoy a number of benefits such as reduced entrance fees to ITI congresses and free participation in ITI Study Clubs, regular updates on the newest literature and developments in implant dentistry, as well as free copies of the ITI Treatment Guides and more. ITI Members and Fellows also have the opportunity to network and exchange information and contacts through the ITInet, the ITI’s global online portal for Members and Fellows.

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