



A Humble, yet Brilliant Educator

interview with Prof. Cristian Dinu

Dr. Cristian Dinu is a professional lecturer, educator, and practicing dentist. Today, we have an opportunity to pick his brain for his philosophy of education.

I am a dentist...



Why did you become interested in the field of implantology?

I first discovered implantology during my last year of studying dental medicine at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Hatieganu" in Cluj-Napoca, Romania in 1998-9. I immediately realized that implantology is one of the most important parts of dentistry due to its progress in restoring the morphology, esthetics, and most important the function of the dental arches, which was much better for the patient than the classical solutions.

After my graduation in 2000, I began my training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. This allowed me to be closer to the surgical part of dental implantology, as I was most interested in bone and soft tissue reconstruction and complex cases from the first year. Due to my continuing passion for periodontal plastic surgery, I was attracted more and more to the aesthetic area and the management of complications in this field.

Do you have a particular mentor in the dental world, and how have they influenced you?

Over more than twenty years of implantology, I have had many mentors that inspired me along the way, and indeed I have learned something from all the international colleagues I have met throughout my career. However, my first mentor was Professor Gyula Takacs from Germany, a great implantologist, pioneer in this field, former President of DGZI, and excellent surgeon and prosthetician. In the late 1990s, Professor Takacs was invited to give a series of lectures and practicals on oral implantology at my university by another great surgeon, Professor Baciut, my mentor in maxillofacial surgery. I had the privilege to place my first implant with Professor Takacs standing behind me. After that beginning, I have had the chance to learn from many other brilliant mentors including, Istvan Urban, Giovanni Zucchelli, and Kwang Bum Park.

During your career as an implantologist, you have worked with various implant systems, so can you explain your journey and why you changed each time?

I started my implant journey using the implant system recommended by my mentor, a classic cylindrical external hex implant. I experienced great results with this system but, searching for the best, I then changed to an internal hex tapered implant. I always used only

one system at a time, trying to get the most out of it. From 2010, I tested a series of implant systems in order to find a sufficiently aggressive implant design that would allow more post-extraction placement and faster prosthetic load, but also a more stable connection and surface that induced faster osseointegration. The big step forward occurred in 2012 when I attended the MegaGen European Scientific Meeting in Bucharest and discovered what I had been looking for, MegaGen's AnyRidge implant. From that moment on I have remained faithful to this system.

As a clinician, what advice would you like to give implant companies?

I believe a serious dental implant company needs to constantly invest time, energy and funds to make progress, improve existing products, and create new ones. Another essential is that the local dealers should give help and support to the customers with the whole product range in real time. Plus, as a clinician, it is also very important to be able to provide feedback and to contribute to the improvement of the products I use daily. I can say that, at this moment, I have found the ideal implant company.

Do you have any unforgettable memories as a dentist?

Of course, I have many unforgettable moments, both in my career as a dentist and as a maxillofacial surgeon. The most beautiful memories remain those related to events in which the main role is played by human interaction. I remember with pleasure the meetings with dear people, mentors, old and new friends, and collaborators. This must be one of the main objectives of an educational and clinical research network, such as MINEC, to bring professionals together and to grow their value together.

For education in dental field, what do you recommend for your fellow colleagues?

"Education isn't something that you can finish", Isaac Asimov. Education plays the role of awakening your interest and competence in the profession. As doctors, education becomes all the more important, as the quality of the medical act depends on it. In this sense, I recommend to my colleagues to continuously improve through university and private

educational programs and to choose based on the quality of the content and the status and credibility of those who support these programs.

You are now running your own implant academy, please tell us how this started and your vision?

After two decades of being a university lecturer in maxillofacial surgery and oral implantology, and almost ten years of involvement in postgraduate education focused on implantology (international & private programs), it was almost natural that I felt ready to create my own educational program "Dinu. Academy". I also received essential help from my colleagues in private clinics who contributed to this program, and from my long-term industry partner, the Korean dental implant company MegaGen, and their local representatives in Romania.

We created an annual program consisting of eight course modules in order to transmit not only surgical and prosthetic techniques, but also a global concept of oral implantology. We also support our students through a mentoring program that helps them put into practice what they have accumulated during the course modules.

What are the key challenges facing implantology today?

Oral implantology is experiencing a continuous and dynamic process of transformation, both conceptually and technologically. In recent years, the biological concepts that underlie the structural and functional changes that occur after tooth loss have been stabilized, along with protocols that take account of biology. Implantology has evolved a lot towards obtaining aesthetics and functionality according to the concept "restitutio ad integrum" through the technological progress brought by implants with designs that allow immediate application and loading, bioactive surfaces that facilitate faster osseointegration, and stable implant-prosthetic connections that contribute to the maintenance of peri-implant tissues. Today we can enjoy implants like AnyRidge and Blue Diamond that shorten the treatment time and give long-term stable results.

Another important factor is the emergence of digital protocols that have revolutionized our daily practice. These protocols are becoming more precise and more effective every day. I think the biggest challenge in the near future will be the integration of the human factor with the technological, digital one for achieving success.





What key advice would you give a young implantologist today?

The young generation of doctors have the benefit of huge technological progress and unimaginable support from companies. Accurate diagnoses and precise treatments are now almost completely in the hands of digital technology.

So as doctors, what do we have to do as regards the human factor?

I believe we must have a solid knowledge base related to the biology and pathology of the human body that will allow us to make treatment plans that make use of this extraordinary technology, yet also achieve functional and aesthetic harmony and maintain this harmony over time.

What about your future?

I will continue to work as a doctor, this is my main activity and the one that gives me the greatest satisfaction. I will develop the educational project with my implant academy, trying to give more opportunities to colleagues from different countries to grow in their profession. I will continue my scientific work as a University Professor. As Dean of the Faculty of Dental Medicine at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, I will try to guide the evolution of the Faculty towards excellence, plus I am sure that I will find the energy to contribute to the progress of education worldwide as a MINEC Board Member.



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