



On the Occasion of the 20th

With this issue, Quintessence is embarking on the 20th year of the publication of *The International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants (IJOMI)*. In the summer of 1985, following the publisher's decision to enter the field of implant dentistry periodicals, an appointed editorial board met and conceived the journal's statement of objective:

"To disseminate current information related to the management of patients utilizing implant modalities and to report the results of basic and clinical research by investigators whose studies embrace the implant concept. In so doing, a common forum for communication among all disciplines involved with implant technology and therapy will be provided to enhance patient care."

Further elaboration of the objective provided for the quarterly publication of original articles concerned with reports of basic or clinical research, clinical applications of implant research and technology, proceedings of pertinent symposia or conferences, high-quality review articles, and matters of education related to the field of implants.

The original editorial staff comprised Drs Daniel Laskin (oral and maxillofacial surgery), Ralph Phillips (dental and biomaterials), and, as editorial chairman, William Laney. Shortly thereafter, Dr Antony Melcher (periodontics and oral biology) was added to the staff. Nineteen consultants were initially appointed to serve as referees for the peer review of blinded manuscripts; this number has since increased to 64. In 1987, Dr Thomas Taylor was added to the editorial staff as abstracts editor.

The first issue of volume 1 was published and circulated in the summer of 1986. It contained six articles on a variety of subjects solicited from knowledgeable scientists and clinicians. Number 2 was published in the fall of 1986, and subsequent issues were published on a quarterly basis, with progressively increasing numbers of scientific articles and pages. Since 1993, the *IJOMI* has been a bimonthly publication, and its editorial staff has remained relatively constant. Dr John Brunski replaced Dr Phillips after his death; Dr Michael Newman replaced Dr Melcher, who retired; and Dr Taylor, while remaining the abstracts editor, assumed the role of section editor for prosthodontics in 1994. To share the ever-increasing workload of the editorial staff, Dr Steven Eckert was appointed associate editor in 2004.

In adjunctive activities over the past two decades, the *IJOMI* has published the proceedings of the 1989 Consensus Conference on Implantology (West Germany), the Report of the Sinus Consensus Conference of 1996, which was sponsored by the Academy of Osseointegration (AO), and most recently the proceedings of the Third ITI Consensus Conference. These supplements have provided additional scientific input to the literature on dental implants.

At its second annual meeting in 1987, the neophyte Academy of Osseointegration, with a membership of only 700, formally adopted the *IJOMI* as its official publication. The AO has now grown to an organization of more than 5,000 international members who enjoy subscriptions to the *IJOMI* as a benefit of their affiliation.

Early in its existence, the journal sought to reward excellence in implant research by granting an annual monetary award. Through the Implantology Research Group of the International Association for Dental Research/American Association for Dental Research, Quintessence presented its first award in 1990. Subsequently, to encourage scientific writing in the *IJOMI*, award recipients have been selected annually by the Academy of Osseointegration Research Committee. Through the AO, this award is granted to the individuals who authored the best scientific article published in the *IJOMI* in the previous year's volume.

Now, 20 years and some 1,261 articles later, the *IJOMI* has cause to pause and reflect on its past. The journal has enjoyed excellent support from the staff of the Chicago office of Quintessence throughout its existence. Vice President Tomoko Tsuchiya conceived and nurtured this product in its infancy and should take pride in what has been accomplished during the past 2 decades. The goal of the *IJOMI* has always been the pursuit of excellence in bringing current scientific information concerning implant dentistry and related fields to its readers. As we now join the electronic world of digital processing, perhaps improved literature can be spawned and delivered to our growing reader base in a more expeditious manner.

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