

Prosthodontics and the Turn of the Millennium

In these last days of 1999, it is difficult to avoid the media focus on the turn of the millennium. Every day, newspapers remind us of the year's end by publishing a countdown of the number of days remaining. Some predict that the rapidly approaching year 2000 will involve extraordinary, mysterious, or uncanny occurrences, and journalists are competing to describe the possibilities as sensorially as possible.

Under such circumstances, it is easy to start philosophizing. However, from a global perspective, there is already such a variety of daily events that it is difficult to believe that the turn of the millennium will bring about anything more unique than the usual everyday occurrences of the world. The media bring us news of distant natural disasters such as earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods, of political conflicts and local wars, not to mention the less dramatic but equally serious environmental dangers threatening many parts of the world—and all of these news stories are associated with immeasurable and incomprehensible personal tragedies. Minor features in the newspapers about traffic and other accidents may be easier to comprehend and cause greater personal stress because they hit closer to home and may even affect those dear to us. We know that similar major and minor catastrophes will continue to occur; to balance their effects, we need to focus on the smaller sources of joy that, though rarely reported in the newspapers, life also offers. Quality of life means different things for different individuals, and normal life events may have both positive and negative consequences. This will certainly remain true in the new millennium. But, of course it will be exciting to experience the moment when December 31, 1999, turns to January 1, 2000!

If we narrow our scope to consider prosthodontics, we must agree that most of what is happening in our specialty is of minor importance in comparison to current world events, but it still has great influence on our professional and personal lives. Perhaps it would be useful to remember the more global perspective mentioned above when we tend to over-dramatize the turbulence caused by personal conflicts and controversies regarding prosthodontic decision making and treatment modalities. The guest editorial in issue 5/1999, by Professor Iven Klineberg, points to important questions related to the future of prosthodontics. It should engender discussion among all who are interested in the role our specialty will play in dentistry in the coming decades. We will welcome explorations of this subject in the IJP.

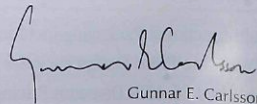
The broad extent of prosthodontic research and range of clinical activities were once again evident at the Eighth Meeting of the International College of Prosthodontists, held in July 1999 in Stockholm, the beautiful capital of Sweden. Nearly 200 lectures, scientific and clinical reports, and posters were presented. We are proud to have been able to present abstracts of all of these presentations in the journal within 5 months after the conference. Abstracts of the

keynote lectures and the oral reports were published in issue 5/99, and the abstracts of the more than 100 poster presentations are included in this issue. The wide variety of topics, methods, and interpretation of results is exciting, and the great amount of activity indicated by the presentations is promising for the future of our specialty.

One of the focus sessions at the Stockholm meeting, "Prosthodontics Without the Glitz," caused much discussion because it showcased clinical solutions that are far removed from current trends in "high-tech" prosthodontics. The inclusion of this provocative topic was intentional. In a world in which the great majority of all prosthodontic patients must be treated with less expensive services than those commonly presented at most prosthodontic conferences, this discrepancy between everyday dentistry and the possible excellence in highly specialized settings must be brought up for discussion. The ICP should be proud to have initiated this dialog. It is obvious that advanced prosthodontics and the search for improved materials and techniques should have a high priority, but prosthodontic research must not abandon the further development of conventional methods, since they will continue to be essential for the majority of the world's prosthodontic patients. The IJP will strive to balance these equally important parts of prosthodontic research during the coming years.

We wish to remind all prospective authors that the IJP is now on the list of journals that have an "impact factor" provided by the Institute for Scientific Information. The 1999 *SCI Journal Citation Reports* lists the IJP's impact factor for 1998, the first year for which the IJP was ranked, as a respectable 0.841. Another attractive piece of news is that the publisher has decided to award a prize for the best article published each year in the journal. More information about this will be presented in the first issue of Volume 13, 2000. The submission rate of new manuscripts is good, and as a result the publication time has increased somewhat from the exceptionally low average time of 6.4 months for Volume 11, 1998; however, it is still quite reasonable—on average 8 to 9 months from submission to publication.

All of us involved in the production of the IJP wish to thank you for your interest in and support of the journal. We also wish all of you an exciting celebration of the new year and look forward to welcoming you back in the new millennium to the continuing timely publication of basic and clinical prosthodontic research, including, for example, the development of new materials, techniques, and treatment outcomes.



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Editor-in-Chief

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