

Awards in Periodontal Research

The **1997 Annual Award for Clinical Research in Periodontology** was presented to Drs Michael McGuire and Martha Nunn at the Annual Session of the American Academy of Periodontology in San Diego in October of 1997. Their studies, "Prognosis Versus Actual Outcome. II. The Effectiveness of Clinical Parameters in Developing an Accurate Prognosis" and "Prognosis Versus Actual Outcome. III. The Effectiveness of Clinical Parameters in Accurately Predicting Tooth Survival" were published in the July 1996 issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*.

A single cash award is provided annually for an outstanding paper having direct clinical relevance and application published in a refereed journal. The entries are judged by the Research Committee of the American Academy of Periodontology. The award is supported by Quintessence Publishing Company, Inc, publisher of *The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry*.

The authors of this winning study evaluated 100 treated periodontal patients to determine (1) the relationship of assigned prognosis to the clinical criteria commonly used in the development of prognosis; and (2) the effectiveness of clinical parameters used in the assignment of prognosis in accurately predicting tooth survival. The results of Part I indicated that some clinical factors are clearly associated with changes in clinical condition over time and that the traditional approach for assigning prognosis is ineffective for teeth with an initial prognosis of less than good. Part II concluded that the effect of clinical parameters on survival is only partially reflected in the assigned prognosis initially, suggesting that perhaps some of the clinical parameters should be weighed more heavily than others when assigning prognosis.



Drs Michael McGuire (left) and Martha Nunn (right) accept the 1997 Annual Award for Clinical Research. Also pictured is Dr Robert Ferris (center), President of the American Academy of Periodontology from 1996 to 1997.

The **Sixth International Symposium on Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry**, "The Evidence of Predictability in Successful Therapy," held its first Poster Session in Boston, June 5-7, 1997. The award for Best Poster was presented to Drs Hisatoshi Tanaka, H. Ohtsuka, E. Mushimoto, and S. Chiba for their research "Evaluation of Absorbable Electrified Poly-L-lactic Acid Membrane for Bone Regeneration in Rats."

The study investigated the effectiveness of regeneration around bone defects using the biodegradable electrified poly-L-lactic acid film and the effect of bone electric stimulation on bone regeneration. The researchers found that defects treated with the poly-L-lactic acid membrane showed more accelerated bone growth and maturity than defects treated with e-PTFE membranes. The electric potential of the poly-L-lactic acid membrane was found to have no effect on bone regeneration.



Dr Hisatoshi Tanaka (left) accepts the Poster Award at the Sixth International Symposium on Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry from Dr Myron Nevins, chairman of the conference.