



Experto Credite*

The international prosthodontic community eagerly looks forward to the forthcoming September ICP meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. The spectacular venue, the opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones, and above all, the scope for intellectual provocation from different approaches to both clinical research and problem solving, will provide another memorable biennial scientific event. I well recall the last meeting in Fukuoka, Japan, where my own farewell ICP presentation was a tribute to three colleagues and friends—Gunnar Carlsson, Giulio Preti, and John Hobkirk—who had so profoundly impacted the academic careers of so many of us in the global discipline. *Experto credite* is Latin for ‘trusting one who has done it,’ or the debt that we all owe our clinical teachers who left indelible examples for us to follow. Gunnar Carlsson and Giulio Preti had already retired from their leadership roles and had received their share of well-deserved accolades for their respective legacies. The third, John Hobkirk, had just retired from his long and exemplary career at the Eastman Dental Graduate School in the United Kingdom. Since he was the youngest member of the trio, I chose to postpone this journal’s recognition of his achievements until this issue.

I first met John Hobkirk in 1974. Both of us had made our separate pilgrimages to the Gothenburg Dental School so as to become familiar with the goings-on in that exceptional center of clinical academic excellence; we have been colleagues and friends ever since. I may not do his academic trajectory or the profound influence he has had on his students around the globe sufficient justice when I attempt to sum up his

role in the following maxim, but I can still try. It has been observed that the scholar’s real voyage of discovery consists not only in seeking new landscapes, but above all in having new eyes. John’s search and vision enabled him to personify all that is worthwhile and laudable in clinical scholarship—care of patients, teaching, and research. He continues to elicit a profound sense of gratitude in all of us because of his superb clinical skills, his integrity, and his inspired leadership.

The IJP has benefited immeasurably from the wisdom and generosity of spirit that encompass his reviews. His has been an exceptional scholarly career and we have all been enriched by his numerous contributions. During last autumn’s Karlsruhe International Workshop for Young Prosthodontic Educators, I presented John with a special award for his unparalleled dedication and international leadership in our discipline on behalf of the journal’s editorial family. The following interview seeks to provide our international readership with insights into the career of one so deserving of our collective trust and appreciation.

George A. Zarb
Editor-in-Chief

***“Trust one who has done it.”**

—Virgil (70 BC to 19 BC), Roman poet