

## The Worldwide Prosthodontic Community

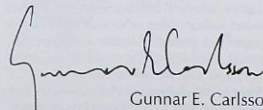
Many dental journals provide information about forthcoming conferences and symposia of general interest. The list of upcoming events featured in *The International Journal of Prosthodontics* emphasizes those that are of interest to prosthodontists; there are about 20 major meetings per year, not counting more local activities. Careful selection and prioritization of one's conference visits is obviously necessary. By the time the next issue of the IJP is on the presses, the 8th meeting of the International College of Prosthodontists will already be history. Therefore, take one last look at the program for the ICP's Stockholm meeting in July and consider giving priority to this exciting prosthodontic event, which will be held in a beautiful city.

Another conference that is well worth attending is the annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), which attracts dentists from all specialties, including many prosthodontists. This year, Vancouver hosted about 6,000 participants at the 77th general session of the IADR in March. Rain poured down during the entire conference, appropriately keeping us in the lecture halls. (Fortunately, the sun came back at the end of the conference to reveal the beauty of the city.) More than 3,600 abstracts were published in the conference book, representing an enormous amount of work devoted to dental research worldwide. The body of research presented is even more impressive in light of the fact that only 9 months earlier an almost equal number of reports was presented at the previous IADR meeting in Nice. As usual, dental materials was the biggest group, with 720 abstracts; roughly 230 abstracts dealt with prosthodontics, and an equal number concerned implants or implantology. The quality of the presentations varied greatly, and a previous analysis indicates that fewer than 25% of the abstracts will ultimately be published as complete journal articles. However, many reports were of great interest—hopefully some of them will find their way into the IJP.

During the IADR conference a lunch meeting was held for the members of the IJP editorial board and representatives of the publisher. The objective was to exchange information and ideas about the journal, including issues based on the statistics that were presented in the 1/99 editorial. The rather extensive changes that have taken place

in the content of the journal since its beginning in 1988 are welcome, and they are thought to mirror well the ongoing developments in prosthodontic research. The wide geographic distribution of submissions to the IJP was appreciated, but the increasing preponderance of articles from Europe surprised some of the North American reviewers. This imbalance may be explained partly by the fact that as a new editor I had opportunities to tell members of the European, Scandinavian, and Swedish prosthodontic associations about the IJP's short publication time. This information makes the journal attractive to most authors, and it rapidly promoted many new submissions from Europe. At the meeting, it was suggested that this message be presented in the journal to reach a wider audience. I am therefore pleased to announce that the mean total publication time from submission, or reception at the Göteborg office, to publication was 6.4 months for articles in Volume 11, 1998. The average time from submission to acceptance was 2.6 months. It will be difficult to maintain this exceptionally short publication time in the future, as many things can easily disturb the editorial and publication processes. One example is the publication of conference proceedings in issue 5/98, which immediately increased the publication time by 2 months for regularly submitted manuscripts. (As discussed above, however, we feel that conferences and events are important opportunities for keeping up with developments in our specialties, and the IJP will continue to provide relevant information on these topics.) When the IJP was founded the original goal was to "present news—not history." This is still a worthy goal, and we believe that 7 to 8 months is a realistic average publication time.

We invite submissions of new manuscripts from all over the world to further develop the international character of the IJP, and to ensure that the journal maintains its place of importance in the worldwide prosthodontic community.



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