

## Editorial

### Annual Award for Clinical Research in Periodontology

The 1995 Annual Award for Clinical Research in Periodontology was presented to Dr John C. Gunsolley, Dr Joseph J. Zambon, Ms Catherine Schenkein, Dr Carol N. Brooks, and Dr Claire C. Kaugars at the Annual Session of the American Academy of Periodontology in New York on September 20, 1995. Their studies, "Periodontal Therapy in Young Adults With Severe Generalized Periodontitis" and "Maintenance Therapy in Young Adults With Severe Generalized Periodontitis," were published in the March 1994 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 Co, Inc, publisher of *The International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry*.



Recipients of the 1995 Clinical Research Award (from left): Dr Claire C. Kaugars, Dr Carol N. Brooks, Ms Catherine Schenkein, Dr John C. Gunsolley, and Dr Joseph J. Zambon with Dr Donald F. Adams, 1994-1995 AAP President.

In "Periodontal Therapy in Young Adults With Severe Generalized Periodontitis," the authors evaluated the effect of periodontal therapy on clinical and microbiologic parameters in 23 young subjects with severe generalized early-onset periodontitis. Therapy consisted of oral hygiene instructions and scaling and root planing, followed 3 months later by open flap debridement. Posttreatment reductions in probing depths were similar to those reported for patients with adult periodontitis. Comparable improvements in clinical attachment

levels were not observed. This study was the first to systematically evaluate the response of severe generalized early-onset periodontitis to traditional therapy.

The purpose of "Maintenance Therapy in Young Adults With Severe Generalized Periodontitis" was to evaluate the effect of supportive periodontal therapy over a 1-year period in young patients with severe generalized periodontitis who had been previously treated with scaling and root planing followed by open flap debridement. The results suggested that *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, but not *Acinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans*, may be predictive of future attachment loss in young adults with generalized severe periodontitis and that the frequency of periodontal breakdown in this population is high. The study suggested that patients who have been treated for severe generalized periodontitis may be at a high risk of recurrent disease.

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