



## On Behalf of the 7th Annual Meeting

William R. Laney, DMD, MS Editorial Chairman

The 7th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration will take place February 27-29, 1992, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. There are several significant features associated with this meeting that deserve special mention.

Following informal meetings of an Osseointegration Study Club in New York during 1984 and 1985, the Academy of Osseointegration was formed. The first annual meeting was held in 1986 in Chicago, at which time the documents for governance and incorporation were approved by the organizing membership. A second annual meeting of the Academy was also held in Chicago and the three meetings that followed were held in Dallas. Rapid growth of the Academy mandated new meeting environs, which resulted in the move from Dallas to Boston for the 1991 meeting. Furthermore, broader geographic exposure was thought appropriate to acquaint local as well as national participants with the goals, objectives, and programs of the Academy.

The early meetings were attended by several hundred clinicians, educators, and researchers. Academy membership has grown to more than 1,700, with concurrent growth in annual meeting attendance to nearly 800 in 1991. Broadly based scientific programs of quality presentations have attracted the profession and stimulated rapid expansion.

What is special about the 1992 Annual Meeting of this organization now in its 7th year? There has been concerted effort made at the Academy executive level to extend its membership beyond the borders of the United States and to all sectors of the profession. The field of oral and maxillofacial implants has deep roots abroad, and it has been deemed most desirable that the expertise and experience of international colleagues be included in the organizational membership and programming for continued growth and development of the discipline. Consequently, the first venture of the Academy to an international site will occur in 1992 at Vancouver. The Academy roster currently includes a number of Canadian members, and by bringing the annual scientific program closer to home and proximal to the western US and far east, it is hoped that additional candidates for membership will be induced by the quality of program and fellowship to seek affiliation.

Enhanced programming has been the Academy's response to input from its members. The 7th Annual Meeting has been extended to 2 1/2 days, thereby enabling the Program Committee to include expanded limited-attendance clinic opportunities, topic-dedicated symposia, and presentations by invited international authorities (see page 489). The scientific program will be further embellished with short

presentations on applicable clinical subjects and current research developments, as well as poster presentations and table clinics.

Along with the growth in attendance at annual meetings of the Academy is the increasing interest by implant and related manufacturers to promote their products in this userfriendly environment. The Annual Meeting Committee has made every effort to accommodate the exhibitors by way of space, program scheduling, and location. As a result, more and larger manufacturer delegations have joined the AO annual meetings to acquaint the marketplace with their new and established products.

Thus 1992 will be a landmark year for the Academy as it continues to respond to the international implant community's need for quality programs of continuing education and service. Its remarkable progress has not occurred casually, since dedicated professionals such as Dr Charles Berman, current president and one of the Academy's founders, have devoted countless hours to giving it the stature envisioned nearly a decade ago. As the Academy's official publication, *The International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants* shares in the organizational success enjoyed to date and is pleased to have this opportunity to urge all interested individuals to join the movement forward as it goes international in 1992. See you in Vancouver!