

Editorial

Annual Award for Clinical Research in Periodontology

The 1993 Annual Award for Clinical Research in Periodontology was presented to Dr Gordon D. MacFarlane, Dr Mark C. Herzberg, Dr Larry F. Wolff, and Dr Nancy A. Hardie, all of whom are associated with the Clinical Research Center for Periodontal Diseases, Department of Preventive Sciences, School of Dentistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The group's paper, "Refractory periodontitis associated with abnormal polymorphonuclear leukocyte phagocytosis and cigarette smoking," was published in the November 1992 issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*.

A single cash award is provided annually for the best scientific manuscript of direct clinical relevance and application published in a refereed journal within the prior calendar year. The entries are judged by the Research Committee of the American Academy of Periodontology. The award is underwritten by Quintessence Publishing Co, Inc, publishers of *The International Journal of Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry*.

The authors of the winning study analyzed phagocytosis and chemotaxis in 31 otherwise healthy patients and 12 unaffected controls to learn if refractory periodontitis may be associated with defects in peripheral blood polymorphonuclear leukocyte (PMN) function. The quality of oral hygiene and access to dental care for the study patients were high; however, 90% of the refractory patients were found to be smokers. The data collected from the study suggest that a strong association between a peripheral blood PMN defect and refractory periodontitis exists. The study also suggests that tobacco use may contribute to this association.



Recipients of the 1993 Clinical Research Award: (left) Dr Gordon D. MacFarlane and (right) Dr Larry F. Wolff. Not pictured are Dr Mark C. Herzberg and Dr Nancy A. Hardie.