

## Prosthodontics Looks to the Future

This issue welcomes you to the 12th volume of *The International Journal of Prosthodontics*. The start of a new year offers us an opportunity to reflect on the past and to anticipate the future. As we all know, our specialty includes several areas of interest, from "conventional" prosthodontic treatment to the development of new materials and methods, along with other areas related to the clinical practice of prosthodontics. The wide range of interests encompassed by prosthodontics has been reflected in the IJP over the years.

The following table presents an analysis of the contents of the first, middle, and latest volumes of the journal. For obvious reasons, efforts to classify both the topic and type of the articles meet with some methodologic difficulties. Geographic distribution is based on the country of the first author.

Topic	Articles published in the IJP (%)		
	Vols 1 + 2 (n = 108)	Vol 6 (n = 72)	Vol 11 (n = 66)
Dental materials	35	36	24
Removable dentures	25	8	3
Fixed partial dentures	11	18	15
Occlusion-TMD	11	1	9
Implants	5	31	39
Other	12	6	9
Type of article			
Methods/case reports	32	8	5
Reviews	16	18	21
Laboratory/in vitro studies	33	46	33
Clinical studies	17	24	35
Other	2	4	6
Geographic distribution			
North America	56	68	26
South America	—	3	1
Europe	25	18	55
Africa	1	4	8
Asia	15	17	9
Australia	4	1	1
Literature abstracts (no.)	95	36	49 + 125*

\*Abstracts of the 1997 ICP Conference, Malta.

The table reveals that the journal has undergone substantial changes over the relatively short period from 1988 to 1998. These changes are most obvious in the decrease in the number of articles related to removable dentures and the corresponding increase in the number of articles on implants. The type of article that we publish also has undergone significant change. In the first volumes, the description of clinical methods was a common form of

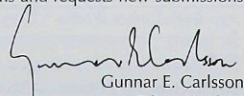
presentation; this type of article has now virtually disappeared. Instead, clinical studies evaluating various methods and materials now make up more than a third of the journal's content. The space devoted to laboratory studies and literature reviews has remained fairly constant since the first volumes. A closer scrutiny of the articles would almost certainly expose substantial changes in scientific approach, methods, aims, and directions, all of which reflect the ongoing development in prosthodontic practice and research.

From the start, one of the goals of the IJP has been to present abstracts of interesting articles published by other journals. The 180 abstracts cited in this table originated from 66 different journals. This ongoing survey on the part of our abstract editors and reviewers of what is being published elsewhere is a valuable service to our readers. In Volume 11, no. 1, other examples of current prosthodontic research were presented with the publication of 125 abstracts from the International College of Prosthodontists conference that took place in Malta in November 1997.

The wide range of countries from which papers have been submitted bespeaks the international character of the journal. During the past few years, submissions have come from about 20 different countries per year. The early dominance of North American submissions (especially from the USA) recently has been offset somewhat; in the latest volume, European authors were responsible for the largest number of submissions. The geographic distribution of IJP authors is, however, still wide; the articles in this first issue of 1999 originate from 9 different countries.

For several years the IJP has been abstracted and/or indexed in MEDLINE, Current Contents/Clinical Medicine, and the Science Citation Index. However, it has not been among those journals with an impact factor because this calculation of a journal's stature and influence is a long process. It is a pleasure for me now to be able to announce that starting this year the IJP will be listed in the Science Citation Index with an impact factor. We believe that this will make the submission of articles to the journal even more attractive.

As prosthodontics looks toward a new millennium, the IJP will continue to evolve so as to reflect the changes in our specialty and to better serve the needs of our readers. As always, the editorial board of the IJP welcomes your comments and suggestions and requests new submissions to the journal.



Gunnar E. Carlsson  
Editor-in-Chief

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