

Disclosure

The times they are a-changin'. These words are truer today than when Bob Dylan wrote them 30 years ago. Waves of change have spread over the industrialized nations since the 1960s, bringing advances as well as challenges to every aspect of our lives. Nowhere is this more apparent than in dentistry. New materials and techniques, dental implants, and computerization have changed the face of our profession.

One of the most profound changes has been in the sponsorship of research, with industry as the driving force. Funding by manufacturers has steadily increased to the point that it is responsible either directly or indirectly for most of the articles published. As a result, we have an explosion of new products and approaches that directly benefit our patients and our practices because of industry funding. This is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it can be argued that superior products and technologies are now available because of applied research sponsored by dentists or companies with an economic interest in selling a product or service. Others would say that this approach forces authors to place products in the best possible light, regardless of research results, or risk loss of future support.

In my opinion, both sides of the argument have merit. Just because a paper has corporate sponsorship does not mean that its conclusions are incor-

rect or biased. However, it is important that such commercial funding is disclosed so that you, the reader, can place the conclusions in proper context. To that end, *Quintessence International* will continue to ask its authors to list possible conflicts of interest at the conclusion of each article.

I, as editor-in-chief, am not exempt from this accountability. To let you know where I stand, here is a list of my possible conflicts of interest: I am a periodontist in full-time private practice; I am on the Scientific Advisory Board of Dental View; I own stock in Interleukin Genetics; and I have delivered paid lectures for Biora, Interleukin Genetics, The Straumann Company, and Dental View. If a submitted manuscript involves any of these companies and their products or other companies with whom I establish a relationship, the article will be reviewed by persons who do not have such a conflict.

It is my hope that we can balance professional and commercial relationships for the benefit of our patients.



Thomas G. Wilson, DDS
Editor-in Chief