

On Flexing Muscles of Contradiction

I continue to believe that our *International Journal of Prosthodontics* (IJP) issues include suitably edited manuscripts from the numerous international submissions that challenge our collective editorial judgment. Our selections seek to provide readers with carefully chosen papers that range from new research to ambitious meta-analyses; with the latter increasingly found in many journals. The latter purport to provide clinically reliable syntheses of what are a set of narrow studies that often include biased, underpowered, and short-duration reports. The disappointing outcome of these efforts is limited relevant clinical interpretation. And it is even more disappointing to realize that there is virtually no compelling debate-driven follow-up correspondence or commentary generated by these publications. The net result is that far too many overviews on numerous topics go unchallenged in the context of experiential and humanitarian assessments (see the guest editorial by Tricia Greenhalgh in IJP, Issue 1, 2013). Hence, the risk that our own IJP selections may inadvertently mislead readers into presuming that published authorial conclusions—even from highly qualified, respected researchers—may *not* need additional critical study.

My perception is that we are dealing with an increasingly superficial, even alarming, commercialization of our discipline. Consequently, the in-between shades of gray that underscore the primacy of clinical judgment—healthy skepticism or useful doubt—are often ignored. An informed and subversive-like approach is needed here if the muscle of contradiction is to not atrophy from lack of exercise. We must continue to marry every patient-mediated concern to prudence and discretion without succumbing to asseveration and anecdotally driven approaches to managing patients' real needs.

With the Editorial Board's help, I plan to recruit guest commentaries and editorials that meet this objective. Providing concise and provocative syntheses of thoughts and concerns that do not readily work their way into traditionally submitted and published papers will hopefully make for an even more interesting format for this journal. It is with this in mind that Terry Walton from Sydney, Australia—a long-serving and invaluable Associate Editor—was invited to contribute this issue's Commentary (see page 114).

George A. Zarb
Editor-in-Chief

The next **IJP/Karlsruhe Workshop for Young Prosthodontic Educators** (YPE) will take place on October 12–15, 2014, in Baden-Baden, Germany. It will be funded by the Foundation for Rehabilitation (FOR) which is an independent, international initiative that seeks to improve oral health care and support humanitarian leadership.

These unique workshops are presented by a faculty selected from the IJP editorial team whose pro bono commitment helps develop and nurture clinical scholarship. The 2014 Workshop is open to new participants as well as a small number of past workshop attendees. Attendance and free registration are limited to 36 participants who are preferably already ICP members.

Participation Criteria

- Candidates should be at a relatively “early career” stage of their teaching commitment and currently contracted to a part-, or full-time university teaching position in the discipline.
- Candidates are requested to submit an application, a brief current/recent CV, and a one-page essay on how workshop participation could impact their scholarly development. Each application should also be endorsed by the applicant's department/discipline head or faculty dean.
- Applications should be emailed to the IJP office (ijp.prostho@utoronto.ca) with copies also emailed to the ICP Administration office (icp@icp-org.com) to confirm ICP membership status.

The ICP provides limited workshop support through competitive funding to assist attendance for participants from developing countries. Potential participants should provide confidential information about their funding limitations, confirmed by their Head of Department/Program Director and submit their funding request to the ICP office in their application.

Registration Deadline Date: June 1, 2014

Contact Information:

Workshop Registration Office:
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