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Preface to Geriatric Oral Research Group Conference Papers

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On March 14–16, 1999, the Geriatric Oral Research Group of the International Association of Dental Research held a satellite symposium entitled "Successful Aging Through Oral Health." The rustic and quiet setting of the conference on Vancouver Island created an ideal venue for focusing on oral health issues that will affect future cohorts of older adults, not just in North America, but throughout the world. The speakers presented data and insights into epidemiologic trends in many countries, as well as develop-

ments in dental disease prevention and treatment. Participants left with great optimism about the oral health care of older adults in the 21st century. We invite you to read all the papers in this issue of the *JPHD*; they represent most of the perspectives presented at this symposium.

We are grateful to the following companies for their generous financial support of the symposium, and for their participation during the two days in March 1999: Colgate Palmolive (USA), GC America, Inc. (USA), Nobel

Biocare (Canada), Procter and Gamble (USA), and Sun Medical (Japan). In addition, we would like to express our appreciation to our colleagues who reviewed all the manuscripts for the *JPHD*, after having heard them presented at the symposium. Thanks also are due to Ms. Carol Dean at the University of Washington, who compiled the program and abstracts for the symposium. Finally, we thank the speakers and participants, whose discussions during and between sessions enriched all of us!

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