

## PREFACE



The singer/songwriter Peter Allen had a wonderful number he did in concert called “Everything Old Is New Again.” Well, that’s the way it is with evidence based dentistry (EBD). It isn’t new; it’s been around for years under the heading of epidemiology. Now I don’t want to scare anyone off. I encourage you to read on and see what EBD is all about. I just want to give credit to and honor those medical and dental epidemiologists who labored and perhaps languished, never getting their just recognition. They have set the table for what has become a hot topic in dentistry and we would not be here without them.

This issue of the *Dental Clinics of North America* is meant to introduce practitioners to the concepts of EBD. It is a marriage of clinicians and scientists who present a framework so practitioners can apply EBD to their practices. I would like to thank all the contributors for their time, energy, and devotion to expanding critical knowledge, which will benefit patients and clinicians alike.

I was lucky to be part of a team chosen to spend time studying EBD at MacMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario with the thought of bringing the concept to dentistry. The faculty there—David Sackett, George Browman, Gordon Guyatt, Ray Gilbert, etc.—developed the concept for EBM and deserve credit for holding fast and firm until medicine came around and adopted their thinking. My colleagues—James Anderson, Alan Carr, David Felton, Rhonda Jacob, Brien Lang, Patrick Lloyd, Glen McGivney, Jack Preston, and George Zarb—developed a camaraderie and sense of purpose that resulted in two International Symposia on EBD, a reader’s guide to the dental literature published in the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, and finally this issue. Being sequestered with such a prestigious group was one of the greatest experiences in my life.

I have been blessed with a wonderful, supportive family who have been influential in making me who I am. To Mom, Dad, Jeanne, and Debbie, I can never thank you enough. My children Lee, Adam, Kelly, and Brian give reason and constant joy to life. I love them and thank them for who they are and for being my inspiration.

GARY R. GOLDSTEIN, DDS  
*Guest Editor*

New York University College of Dentistry  
Division of Restorative and Prosthodontic Sciences  
345 East 24th Street  
Clinic 5W  
New York, NY 10010-4086