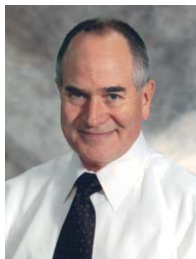


## Preface

# Fixed Prosthodontics



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*Guest Editors*

Current patient expectations for fixed prosthodontic restorations reflect a cultural change in our society that places increased emphasis on youth and physical appearance. Patients want enhanced esthetics. The progressive practice offers state-of-the-art dentistry including excellent esthetics but cannot afford to have a large proportion of premature fixed prosthodontic failures. Short-term cosmetic results are relatively easy to evaluate; however, clinical durability of new products is difficult to predict. Dentists have the challenge of satisfying patient desires for maximum esthetics while ensuring that the function and durability of costly restorations meet patient needs and professional standards.

Numerous new materials, devices, and techniques are available, and more are continually being introduced. They are promoted as esthetic, durable, and functional by effective marketing programs that are often premature. Companies and their representatives sometimes exaggerate the limitations of traditional care. Research associated with new materials and devices supported by industry may not be free of bias. In vitro studies do not simulate in vivo conditions, and scientifically sound clinical studies are extremely difficult to conduct. Evidence-based dentistry has become popular, but dentistry struggles to find ways to conduct valid scientific research.

The goal of this *Dental Clinics of North America* is to present and discuss traditional and new fixed prosthodontic techniques, materials, and devices. The articles have been organized to provide suggestions for obtaining superior results with established procedures and advantages associated with new products. Each article has been written by experts in the particular subject

area. We hope you will learn and that you enjoy reading the articles in this symposium as much as we did when we reviewed them.

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