

# Editorial

## IT LOOKS LIKE A GREAT CONVENTION!



Dr. John P. O'Keefe

Welcome to our second special convention edition of the *Journal*. This issue aims to give you a snapshot of the Canadian talent that will be presenting at the CDA convention to be held in conjunction with the Pacific Dental Conference in Vancouver between March 9 and 11, 2000.

The reaction I got from readers to our first convention edition in May was very positive. A number of readers told me: "This was the first time I ever read the *Journal* from cover to cover." I know from the reaction to the May issue and from speaking with dentists across the country that you want the *Journal* to publish clinical material that is relevant to everyday dental practice. Many of the changes to the *Journal* are aiming to meet that need.

It makes sense to me that articles related to continuing education (CE) should have broad appeal to readers. Consequently, I can envisage the Clinical Practice section of the *Journal* presenting more articles linked to CE courses offered

by dental schools, provincial associations and other groups affiliated to CDA.

Using the formula that we have adopted for the current edition (publishing short clinical articles written by Canadians a few months in advance of the convention), we could present the highlights of various clinical meetings held in Canada. The appearance of these articles in the *eJCDA* may help to raise the awareness of Canadian clinical meetings internationally.

The articles in this edition did not pass through our normal peer review process (anonymous evaluation by two external expert reviewers). I judged that because the authors were asked to write a short article dealing with some aspect of their presentation at the convention, there was no pressing need to send the material out for review. What you read in this edition is a foretaste of what you will hear at the convention.

The articles discuss many interesting and important issues. How we deal with the early carious lesion is a perennial problem. Drs. Chris Bryant and George Freedman demonstrate the management of such lesions with two different approaches: air abrasion and fissurotomy. Dr. Ken Neuman predicts that amalgam will be gone from the armamentarium of dentists within ten years. Dr. Alan Lowe shows how dentists can treat certain cases of sleep apnea. Dr. Jim Grisdale gives an overview of the use of synthetic bone to augment ridges prior to implant placement.

As an editor, I am particularly impressed with the structure of Dr. David Kennedy's article on the orthodontic management of missing teeth — it could serve as a template for Clinical Practice articles. Dr. John Carpendale brings to our attention a growing Canadian problem: what to do with the failing dentition that has already been restored with fixed prosthodontic appliances. Dr. Carpendale's call to deal with these patients in a very sensitive manner struck me greatly; it's nice to read an article in a dental publication that stresses caring.

Dr. William Liebenberg urges us to use composites with caution and goes as far as to say that treatment with these materials may be considered "probationary" in many cases. I sometimes think that a publication like ours could be described as the "Journal of Cautious Dentistry," while the typical commercial publication could be termed the "Magazine of Bravado Dentistry." I suppose there is a place in the sun for everyone!

Dr. Jim Armstrong and co-authors write an overview article about strategies for positioning a dental practice in a competitive business environment. This article will be followed by a series of related articles in *Communiqué*, CDA's member-only publication. Articles related to the "business side of dentistry" are now appearing in *Communiqué* and we hope to build up this aspect of the publication over the coming months.

On another note, this month sees the introduction of new associate editors and editorial consultants who will be working closely with me to develop the *Journal* to its full potential. Some long-time consultants will continue to lend their wisdom to the *Journal*, while others are retiring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drs. Bob Brandon, Victor Legault, Michael MacEntee, James Main, Ken Neuman, James Stakiw and Earle Young, as well as Ms. Helen Grad and Donna Hennyey for their many years of invaluable service to the *Journal*. Without the generous help of such people, our publication simply could not exist.

The number of associate editors and editorial consultants has expanded and some more people will be joining us in the months ahead. I will speak further about their roles and responsibilities in a future edition. For now, I would like to say that I am happy that new people want to devote some time to the *Journal* and I look forward to working closely with them in the months and years ahead.

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