

Editorial

CELEBRATING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP



Dr. John P. O'Keefe

The Pope's funeral last month was a remarkable event. Aside from the religious significance of the occasion, the media highlighted the worldwide celebrations of the life of a truly international personality. I was encouraged to see religious and political leaders of very different traditions join millions of people around the world to pay their respects to a man whose face may be the most recognizable of our time. The magnitude of the event shows how the Pope's embodiment of the finest human attributes was universally recognized.

While not on the same scale, there was an important gathering of the international prosthodontic community in Toronto in May 2004 to celebrate the career of Dr. George Zarb, who was retiring from full-time academia at the University of Toronto. It is fair to say that Dr. Zarb

has been one of the most influential prosthodontists — and Canadians — on the world dental stage over the past few decades. He has been a pioneer in researching the efficacy of dental implant therapy and he has influenced countless dentists around the world through his teaching.

In this edition of *JCDA* we help celebrate his remarkable contribution to our profession by publishing 7 papers from colleagues of Dr. Zarb who spoke at the 2004 symposium. These experts examine various aspects of how the discipline of prosthodontics has changed since 1966 and outline their visions of how the specialty will evolve to 2042. These papers are all published as electronic-long, paper-short articles and can be found in their entirety on the *eJCDA* (www.cda-adc.ca/jcda).

Dr. Jim Anderson, a long-time colleague of Dr. Zarb at the University of Toronto, puts the symposium and the articles in context. In a wide-ranging interview (p. 321–3), Dr. Zarb himself speaks of the highlights of his career and the people who influenced him.

Significantly, he worries that unless our educational institutions maintain an emphasis on excellence, our profession will suffer in future. Like many high-energy individuals, Dr. Zarb has no intention of putting his feet up when he retires. He continues to exert a major intellectual influence on the profession through his position as editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Prosthodontics*.

In another respect, there is a strong international flavour to this month's issue. The "Clinical Showcase" and "Point of Care" sections feature articles by 5 experts from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom who will be speaking at the FDI Congress in Montreal this

August. This Congress promises to be the biggest dental meeting ever held in Canada. Under the excellent stewardship of Drs. Denis Forest and André Prévost, the Local Organizing Committee has worked tirelessly over the past few years to arrange excellent scientific and social programs.

I certainly hope that you will come to Montreal from August 22 to 27 to attend this meeting to learn, have fun and meet with colleagues from around the world. I have heard Dr. Forest describe the Congress as the "Olympics of Dentistry." You can read more about the Congress on the FDI Web site at www.fdiworlddental.org. Canadian dentists can navigate from the CDA Web site (www.cdaadc.ca/fdi) to register online for the Congress.

Speaking of global contacts, you may have noticed *JCDA*'s increasingly international face in the past couple of years, with approximately 45% of all article submissions now originating from outside Canada. I attribute the globalization of *JCDA* to the easy access to its electronic counterpart, which allows us to show the world the very best of what's happening in dentistry in this country.

While we have lots to offer the world of dentistry, we can also learn from others. If we examine what is happening in our own province, we will often find that the important trends are international in scope. For this reason, I believe we gain hugely from our involvement with other national dental associations through FDI and we benefit greatly when leaders like Dr. George Zarb choose to make Canada their home.

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