

The Second Act

The editorial leadership has been transferred, but *The International Journal of Prosthodontics* will continue. Dr Jack D. Preston has ably guided the journal during its first 10 years. He and his editorial board had high ambitions to raise the standards of prosthodontic publication. The result has been a highly respected dental journal that presents high-quality articles on all aspects of prosthodontics. I am honored to have been offered the opportunity to take over the editorship of this fine journal. The goals of the journal will remain unchanged, and there will be no dramatic and only minor changes in the publication policy. It is acknowledged that most of the material that will be published in the final issues of this year has been processed by the previous editorial board. A minor change, viz, the requirement of structured abstracts, has been included in the Guidelines for Authors and will be effective from the first issue of 1998. In this respect the IJP follows a current trend in many biomedical journals.

Viewed from a larger perspective, changes will naturally occur—changes that are a consequence of the enormous ongoing rapid development in scientific publishing and multimedia techniques, changes that are implemented parallel to the development of our specialty, and changes that are desired by the authors, the editorial leadership, and the readers. The last category should be the first to be performed. An often-expressed wish of the readers/clinicians is that more clinically oriented papers be presented. Historically, the clinical case report has been used to introduce interesting diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of single patients. However, the value of the case report has been questioned and the expression, "Beware of the one-case man," carries an adequate warning against drawing conclusions from anecdotal observations. I think the clinical case presentation in a modified form can be of great interest and value to our profession and the readers of the journal. When combined with the patient's relevant background information and references to the literature, it can provide an understanding of the decision-making process. There are enormous differences in the prosthodontic service available around the world, and we would welcome clinical presentations from a variety of clinics. The "Geography of Prosthodontics" has

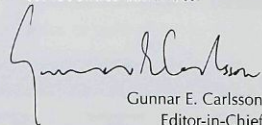
not yet been fully explored. Articles reflecting variations in prosthodontic principles and practice in various parts of the world would certainly be of interest to the international journal that the IJP is.

Another area in which we would welcome more contributions is review articles: papers that systematically scrutinize the literature on clinically important questions, preferably those with inconclusive or conflicting answers. The dental literature is constantly growing, and interpretation of the balance between old and new information is increasingly difficult. The differing opinions on numerous issues in prosthodontics call for review using methods aimed at limiting bias. Previous issues of the IJP reveal a valuable blend of papers, with a focus on scientific reports. Articles with evidence-based, systematic observations will remain the core of the journal, but, with respect to the above discussion, we would also invite potential authors to submit more clinical reports and literature reviews as well as comments and suggestions on the contents of the journal.

The IJP is the official journal of the International College of Prosthodontists. This collaboration has undoubtedly benefited both parties, and it is hoped that it will continue and develop further. The journal will also seek to develop similar relationships with other prosthodontic organizations worldwide.

A new editorial board has been appointed whose members appear to be full of enthusiasm to maintain the quality of the journal, but also to gradually implement changes. Several of them have held positions on the previous editorial board and will guarantee a continuity of successful principles. The majority of members are new to the journal but have highly respected positions in prosthodontics and have been selected to reflect the international scope of the journal.

The title of this editorial alludes to the metaphor used in the last editorial (May/June 1997 issue). The play will go on. The second act starts with a new director and a partially new cast. The ambitions are the same as before: to present to the audience—readers and authors—a meaningful and interesting performance. *The International Journal of Prosthodontics* continues.



Gunnar E. Carlsson
Editor-in-Chief