



## A Glimpse of Grace

The glacial progress of prosthodontic scholarship sped up dramatically as a result of original and spin-off research in osseointegration, composite resins, and ceramics. New and clinically compelling ideas rapidly gained ascendancy as seminal publications synthesized exciting directions for this intraoral architectural discipline of ours. The names Per-Ingvar Brånemark, Michael Buonocore, and John McLean come to mind immediately—three visionaries whose published works galvanized a new generation of clinical scholars. Almost inevitably, a technique-dominated discipline built on traditional pragmatism and clinical ingenuity (as well as numerous irrelevant theoretical conflicts) was provoked to mature into the epicenter of oral reconstructive science. And the ultimate beneficiaries—our patients—entered a new era of dentition retention and replacement that is now routine practice in large parts of the world.

Over the last 3 decades, numerous clinical scholars and laboratory scientists made their own ripples of discovery. They did so in universities and private offices, often synergizing with commercial companies whose own research laboratories had so frequently provided the traditional clinical knowhow for the profession. Many of the resulting ripples crossed each other from diverse sources of enlightenment and daring that eventually built into a current of clinical prudence and evidence-based practice. The resulting momentum continues to sweep away bias and resistance to scientific progress.

John W. McLean was one exceptional “ripple maker” and we celebrate his memory in this issue. His combination of erudition and unremitting commitment to clinical excellence guaranteed lectures of the utmost elegance and intellectual provocation. In one of his books he observed that, “half the joy in life frequently consists in the fight and not in the consequent success.” John McLean brought much professional joy, indeed pride, into our clinical lives with the extraordinary and tenacious example of his own career’s fights and successes. Above all, he provided us, his students, with a lingering and unique glimpse of scholarly grace.

On behalf of the entire editorial family of this journal, I offer deepest sympathies to the McLean family.

George A. Zarb  
Editor-in-Chief