



## On Developing Leadership in Clinical Scholarship



(above)  
Participants and faculty of the 2016 YPE Workshop held in Karlsruhe, Germany.



(right) Host and guest faculty of the 2016 YPE Workshop held in Kyoto, Japan.

Developments in osseointegration and digital dentistry ushered in an exciting and challenging era for the prosthodontic discipline. Longstanding debates about best protocols for managing partial and complete edentulism were enriched by the two techniques' emergent efficacy and effectiveness. A consequent expansion in scope for customized treatment approaches that address the spectrum of patients' needs and aspirations quickly evolved, while the discipline's near-exclusive research focus on technology expanded to include treatment outcomes mediated by both patient concerns and the inevitability of intraoral ecologic changes.

Flexibility and innovation in online educational programs continue to expand the many readily available learning situations for both generalists and specialists. However, carefully designed face-to-face group learning experiences, especially for clinical teachers, have been uncommon. This realization fostered this journal's decade-long commitment to educating clinical educators—an initiative that took the form of biennial workshops for Young Prosthodontic Educators (YPE) that started over a decade ago. The workshop ethos is to nurture leadership in clinical

scholarship since scientific advances provoke new responsibilities for stewardship of patient-mediated needs and concerns. For example, newer implant treatment options still need to be reconciled with the quality of long-term outcome results that first engaged the profession in 1982, when the osseointegration genie first came out of the bottle. Moreover, the discipline cannot lose sight of the dramatic increase in life expectancy and shifts in societal pyramids. Multimorbidity and treatment uncertainties in the elderly cohort are serious emerging concerns that cannot be ignored, irrespective of whether patients wear removable prostheses or implant-supported alternatives. Prosthodontics lingers at a crossroads when it comes to deciding how best to ensure that the brilliance of applied biotechnology—digital dentistry plus osseointegration—does not succumb to a formulaic approach. Above all, our treatment interventions must not risk becoming an unavoidable and unnecessary burden for an aging edentulous population and an insurmountable challenge for our discipline.

Two IJP-driven Workshops with this special agenda were held this past fall—a sixth in Karlsruhe, Germany, and a first Japanese one in Kyoto. The accompanying

photographs show participants and faculty in Karlsruhe and the combined Japanese host and guest faculty members. Activities related to past IJP/Karlsruhe Workshops have been reported in prior Journal issues; and this last one, as was the case with all past Workshops, was most generously supported by Nobel Biocare, the International College of Prosthodontics, Quintessence Publishing, and the Australian and New Zealand Prosthodontic Society. Its faculty—all members of the IJP editorial family—included members from European, North American, Australian, South African, and Israeli Universities who engaged in close and

intellectually provocative exchanges with a younger generation of 42 prosthodontic clinical scholars from 24 countries. The Japanese experience is partially summed up in a much appreciated letter written to the IJP readership by Professor Kazuyoshi Baba, who was part of the Kyoto host faculty team and is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Prosthodontic Research* (JPR).

The next IJP/Karlsruhe Workshop is scheduled for October 2018 in Karlsruhe and will be formally announced in a later 2017 issue.

George Zarb, Editor-in-Chief

Dear readers of the *International Journal of Prosthodontics* (IJP),

I am extremely pleased to take this opportunity to report on the IJP-Japan Prosthodontic Society (JPS) Young Prosthodontic Educators (YPE) Workshop, which was held in Kyoto from November 24 to 27, 2016. The first YPE Workshop was conducted at Karlsruhe and Baden-Baden, Germany from 2006 on. It has been held biennially since then, with two Asian cities—Seoul and Beijing—also hosting individual workshops. These workshops focus on prosthodontic management and treatment, which are discussed through open and provocative debates among selected participants from the global YPE community in a nonhierarchical setting. The discussion is guided by a unique pro bono faculty selected from the ranks of the IJP editorial board and financially supported by sponsoring companies.

The November YPE Workshop was held in Japan for the first time in the old capital city of Japan. This workshop was unique because it was exclusively targeted to young Japanese prosthodontic educators. It was co-chaired by Drs George Zarb and Kiyoshi Koyano and was guided by eight international tutors from the IJP editorial board and eight Japanese tutors from JPS, who are all editorial members of the *Journal of Prosthodontic Research* (JPR—official journal of JPS). Overall, 36 young educators from different Japanese dental schools participated in the workshop. We acknowledge that such scholarly endeavors cannot take place without the generosity and vision of our sponsors. This workshop was co-organized by IJP and JPS and sponsored by JPS as well as partially supported by Shofu, Inc (Kyoto, Japan), the J. Morita Corporation (Osaka, Japan), and Straumann Japan K.K. (Tokyo, Japan).

During the 4-day workshop, the participants received information on the review process of papers submitted to IJP as well as on how to evaluate systematic review articles. In small groups, the participants discussed clinical cases, which contained various clinically important issues that fostered debates, using available information. Lectures were also given on various clinical topics that were relevant to the cases they discussed. The groups were instructed to reach a consensus on clinical decisions and management considerations for the assigned cases with supporting rationale, which were presented on the final day. All the participants were involved in constructive discussions and actively contributed to reach a consensus. Indeed, their presentations were impressive in a clinical scholarly context, which highlighted the unlimited potential of the next generation of Prosthodontists.

The YPE Workshop's conclusion was summed up in one of Henry Ford's favorite sayings: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Indeed, the efforts of everyone who participated in this unique workshop in Kyoto made it a success. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the IJP tutors, who made the effort to come all the way to Kyoto to make this workshop a success—a memorable experience for both JPS members and the JPR editorial board. I will also report on this experience in my editorial in the first issue of JPR in 2017 (2).

— Kazuyoshi Baba