

Advisory Board Retirements



Gunnar Carlsson



Yasumasa Akagawa

Our discipline has never had a shortage of celebrated teachers—men and women who devote entire professional lives to sharing their research and clinical experience. The best among them contributed lectures and publications that influenced many generations of dentists. They presided over the dynamic transition from empirically driven and technique-driven clinical emphasis to a scrupulous embrace of more recent evidence-based prosthodontic breakthroughs. They sustained energetic and passionate commitment to their dental schools' undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education programs while reconciling newer treatment protocol convictions with older, prudent, experientially driven ones. Above all else, they resisted the pervasive culture of scholarly mediocrity that results from formulaic approaches to patient care—contrived interventions with sophisticated instrumentation to deal with manufactured diseases associated with teeth loss together with the risk of overt emphasis on so-called cosmetic dentistry.

I have been in my profession for a long time, and I am always saddened to note the retirement of unique clinical academics whose impact on the discipline's intellectual depth and longevity are arguably irreplaceable. I now find myself stumbling to say more that is relevant in paying tribute to two special prosthodontic clinical academics, Gunnar Carlsson and Yasumasa Akagawa, whose profound scholarly influence has endured for over a half century. These two gentle, kind, thoughtful, humble, and generous scholars have been an integral part of the IJP editorial family. Both served their national organizations and academic mandates in exemplary fashion, with their global roles acknowledged when they were elected to serve as Co-Presidents of the International College of Prosthodontists. And Gunnar Carlsson in particular expanded his international friendships and numerous contributions to the discipline's literary canon with his exemplary leadership of this journal. It is reassuring to know that both these cherished friends continue to be well, and I am confident that our readership joins me in wishing them many more years of good health, happiness, and serenity.

George A. Zarb
Editor-in-Chief