



## In Progress

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At its 1987 annual meeting, the *JOMI* editorial staff spent considerable time discussing change. The concern with change was not for the sake of change itself, but rather a collective perceived need to expand *Journal* parameters in the interest of progress. Consequently in the months ahead, *JOMI* readers may expect to see the following among other changes:

- \* Invited periodic in-depth reviews of topics involving the field of oral and maxillofacial implants and related subjects to be prepared by recognized authorities.
- \* A new "Abstracts Section" for the review of current U.S. and foreign periodical literature to keep the readers abreast of recent worldwide developments in a rapidly growing field.
- \* Book reviews to enlighten the reader concerning the content and existence of new textbooks on implant and related subject matter.
- \* An expanded "Bulletin Board" for general news and announcements of educational opportunities, organizational events, personal accomplishments or milestones, and election results from professional societies. The Editor of the Academy of Osseointegration, a *JOMI* affiliate, will regularly report on organizational affairs.

Your attention is invited to the new section of "Reader Communications," in which reader responses to articles published in *JOMI* are printed. These pages will not be used for advertising; but rather the sharing of reader thought, opinion, and corrections of or addenda to published material.

It is noteworthy that progress in the field of oral and maxillofacial implants continues at an increasing pace and on many fronts. In growing numbers, patients are seeking restorative treatment utilizing implant support for replacements of lost teeth. General dentists, surgeons, periodontists, and restorative specialists are recommending more frequently the implant option in their plans of treatment for edentulous and partially edentulous individuals. Why now more than a decade ago?

Undoubtedly research and the development of new and more proven concepts in design, biocompatible material systems, and the emphasis on atraumatic technical procedures in implant placement and prosthesis fabrication have had an impact. Documentation of treatment results and the desirability of scientifically accumulating statistical information have enabled the clinician to better predict success. Our sophisticated patients are seeking this information for their decision-making process. Concurrently, professional and lay communication has

been stimulated as the need for educational programs evolve In addition to the inclusion of basic implant fundamentals and technical methodology in the undergraduate dental curriculum, standards for advanced education programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery, periodontics, and prosthodontics are being augmented in response to the demand for the training necessary to provide improved implant services.

The role of *JOMI* in this scientific progression is to stimulate, educate, and disseminate. Stimulation of *Journal* readers is best accomplished by describing and illustrating what has been done, what can be done, and what will be done. Learning occurs when study, assimilation, and experience are combined and applied by the stimulated individual. In receiving the works of curious, interested, and knowledgeable authors who want to share their professional experiences, *JOMI* can prepare and publish relevant information for the challenged reader to use in contributing to progress in the field. The aforementioned changes proposed by the *JOMI* editorial staff will enable us to better serve clinicians and investigators in their efforts to progress.