

An Inuksuk Award for Gunnar E. Carlsson

Soon after I accepted the role of Editor-in-chief of this journal, I sought help from a few members of the IJP's editorial team to form an international prosthodontics faculty committed to an ongoing search for a better world of teaching and learning in our discipline. Together, we initiated workshops for young prosthodontic educators (YPEs) to expand our collective professional and scholarly responsibility for the optimal "management of patients' oral rehabilitative needs"—the IJP's mandate. However, it quickly became apparent that such a bold initiative and personal pro bono commitments were not enough for the successful implementation of our good idea. We also required financial and other forms of support from visionary individuals and organizations, and we were very fortunate in receiving invaluable partnership support from Winfried Walther, director of the Karlsruhe Institute for Advanced Dental Education, and assistance from the International College of Prosthodontists (ICP) and, especially, Nobel Biocare. The latter's indispensable support and significant no-strings-attached role in underwriting the IJP/Karlsruhe workshops underscored the merits of creative scholarship/industry synergies that seek an open-minded quest for more and better YPEs.

Winfried Walther, John Hobkirk (United Kingdom), Sreenivas Koka (United States), and Iven Klineberg (Australia) quickly became indispensable partners in directing workshop objectives in a broad international context. Together with the rest of our faculty, they helped design an educational platform for a healthy and provocative exchange of ideas—one enriched by a format of scrupulous study of assigned case histories and recommended reading material, as well as active debate and participation. The most recent workshop was held this past June in Baden-Baden instead of the usual Karlsruhe locale to host a larger number of participants—both the usual 36 new ones as well as a selected number of previous attendees. Ours was once again a very successful educational event, as attested to by several letters of gratitude and appreciation from numerous participants.

The workshop's program and presented abstracts are included in this issue (see page 637). They provide an excellent synthesis of the lectures that were selected to provide background information for the assigned case history challenges that are integral to a scholarly approach to managing prosthodontic patients' needs.



When our small faculty group came up with the idea of the IJP/Karlsruhe workshops, we were immediately cognizant of our past teachers whose service as role models was pivotal for both our own career development as well as that of numerous YPEs. I refer, of course, to the responsibility of being a *mentor*, with a dictionary definition of "a wise and trusted teacher or guide"—a virtual synonym for all prosthodontic faculty around the world whose commitment to clinical scholarship seeks to enrich young teachers' current and future mentor-

ship roles. And while all of us clinical teachers built our careers around the objective of achieving mentor status, we readily acknowledge that only a few reach the level Gunnar Carlsson has attained. His long, distinguished career has been a testament to a continual search for new ways to communicate common sense and clinical prudence to his audiences, together with his personal desire for scientific growth, indeed renewal. He has always striven to find connections with other young scholars, in particular through his teaching, research, and enormous personal charm. And because of our IJP workshop faculty's collective appreciation of what he has brought into our academic lives, as well as all the outstanding qualities he personifies, we presented him with an Inuksuk as a token of our enduring respect and affection.

George A. Zarb
Editor-in-Chief



An Inuksuk is a stone figure built by the Inuit of Arctic Canada, Alaska, and Greenland. It means "to act in the capacity of a human" and is an extension of the word *inuk*, which translates as "a human being." Inuksuits were placed upon the landscape for different reasons: as hunting and navigational aids, coordination points, markers, and message centers. The IJP/Karlsruhe faculty are presented with mini-inuksuit for their "showing the way" roles at our workshops; Gunnar Carlsson's was sculpted on a grander scale.