

Why another Journal?

Dear Readers and Authors,

While at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century dentistry started to exist as an academic discipline within medicine, it continued to promote an artisan approach to the treatment of dental diseases. Subsequently, oral mucosal lesions were also addressed by medically oriented professionals and finally, it was recognized that another tooth threatening disease affecting the supporting structures was impinging on the well-being of the patient.

However, it was only through the enlightening research performed during the first half of the 20th century that the etiological factors for dental decay were identified and recognized as the basis for therapeutic concepts. Revolutionary developments, such as the discovery of the fluoride ions and their caries preventive effects finally led to the elaboration of not only therapeutic, but also aspects preventive methods. In the second half of the same century, first epidemiological, and later, clinical experimental research has identified the detrimental effect of poor oral hygiene for both dental caries and periodontal diseases. The recognition of a cause and effect relationship between bacterial biofilms on the teeth and the host response of the gingival and – if allowed to persist for a long enough period of time – periodontal tissues mostly by Scandinavian researchers led to clear therapeutic and preventive concepts in the oral cavity.

Fundamental biological research on both etiological and pathogenic mechanisms of disease includ-

ing the associated host responses has pushed the concepts of disease prevention further. In that context, traditional dentistry following curative and oftentimes mechanical principles must change dramatically towards a biologically-based, interdisciplinary approach of oral health medicine within the framework of a total patient care concept. This is further emphasized by existing data supporting associations between oral infection and general health and by dental treatment needs in a growing population of elderly, medically compromised patients.

Up to now, new findings of laboratory and clinical research have been implemented into clinical practice predominantly through the channels of dental specialties or subspecialties, and consequently, the practitioner was faced with going through the tedious selection process of reading the journals or visiting continuing education courses appropriate for his/her practice set-up.

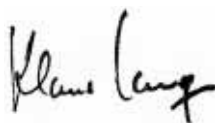
Oral Health & Preventive Dentistry is a forum to unite the efforts of communicating clinically relevant and important new findings for the science and practice of a modern, biologically and evidence-based oral health medicine. The multidisciplinary concept is reflected in the fact that cariology, periodontology and oral health medicine are all united in preventive thought.

It is therefore evident that a new Journal focusing on a comprehensive preventive view of oral health medicine has long been expected. Here it is...

A multidisciplinary Forum for Oral Health Sciences and Clinical Practice



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