



## On Saying Goodbye

After 20 challenging years, the time has come to step down as the editorial chair of the IJOMI. In looking back over this period of my literary career, it is apparent that the early years of launching a periodical based on implant dentistry were concerned with establishing policy, procedure, and format, while trying to attract potential authors whose writings could help create a reputation which would set the journal apart from the competition in the field.

The middle years of involvement found problems related to welcomed growth in manuscript submissions and subscribers, moving from quarterly to bimonthly publication, and improving the quality of research and clinical articles selected for publication. The opportunity to become affiliated with such a growing and prestigious organization as the Academy of Osseointegration and its invitation to become its official publication added further luster to a growing acceptance worldwide. Acquiring an attractive "impact factor" provided important stature for the journal.

Experience in the latter years has witnessed other problems associated with expansion and the struggle to maintain quality. In seeking refinement and streamlining operations, the recent incorporation of electronic technology and management of articles submitted online, while simplifying and expediting article flow, has resulted in an unexpected volume increase which has seriously taxed our editorial personnel and collective abilities to maintain product quality.

Throughout this stimulating evolutionary period of publication initiation, growth, and successful development has been the unique opportunity to be a colleague to and with so many learned and skilled professionals. Over 2 decades there have not been many changes in our core of section editors,

which attests to the fact that their expertise and willingness to share an ever-growing workload in a cooperative journalistic venture reflects selfless loyalty and devotion. Our talented and knowledgeable counterparts of administrative decision makers and the publication staff at the publishing house have made the ongoing task much easier and contributed in no small part to whatever success we have come to enjoy. Caring friendships have evolved in this family which will certainly survive procedural and structural change.

A reputable peer-sanctioned publication cannot exist without the willing dedication and expertise of a revolving body of reviewers we have chosen to call consultants. To these most essential colleagues, I extend my heartfelt thanks for accepting our invitation to contribute and give of their precious time and talents in the worthwhile cause of scientific literature advancement.

As the final chapter in my involvement with this journal is written, with pride and a humble sense of accomplishment, I pass the baton to the new editorial chair, Dr Steve Eckert. Without question, his commitment to task, expertise, and vision for the future of this journal ensures continuing success. I have deeply appreciated the opportunity to be a participant in this most worthwhile endeavor and, hopefully, have contributed in some small way to the betterment of the profession and implant dentistry.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William R. Laney".

William R. Laney, DMD, MS  
Editorial Chairman