

### Developing Chinese Stomatology through Creative Research

With the sustained and rapid development of the Chinese economy and the continuous improvement in living standards in China for 30 years since the Reform and Open Policy, Chinese stomatology went into a period with, historically, the best opportunity for advancement. In some Chinese elite stomatological schools, the facilities and structure of human resources have been greatly improved, and the academic activities for clinical service, teaching, research and prevention are closing the gap with developed countries or may even be in line with international practice. There have been more than 250 stomatological hospitals established in 28 municipalities, provinces or autonomous regions. More than 40,000 private dental clinics are located in the urban and rural areas in China. Moreover, every year more than 15,000 new dentists are qualified and added to the team that provides clinical dental service. It is a delight to see that oral health education and promotion during the last two decades have resulted in a change in the behaviour of the 1.3 billion Chinese people, who now pay more and more attention to oral health and oral disease prevention. Therefore, it is the duty of Chinese stomatologists to make use of this historical chance to promote Chinese stomatology and to improve the dental health of Chinese people.

In fact, the recent development of Chinese stomatology also benefited from the serial application of new theories, techniques, materials, productions and facilities from international dental fields. All of these new theories, techniques, etc. resulted from creative research in stomatology. Without creative research and the subsequent development of stomatology, people would not be provided with high quality oral care and prevention. Therefore, it is well recognized among Chinese stomatologists and scholars that more attention should be paid to creative research and better conditions be given to promote it. The elite stomatological schools and institutes in China in particular should play an important role in creative research.

Currently there are 22 stomatological journals published in China, among which 21 journals are published in Chinese mainly for Chinese stomatologists, and one journal in English, the *Chinese Journal of Dental Research*, which is also the only English journal of the Chinese Stomatological Association. We hope that the journal will serve as a window to make dental research in China available to international colleagues, and also as a bridge for Chinese stomatologists and international colleagues to communicate and exchange their research. Recent years, with the great efforts of Professor Zhen Kang ZHANG, the former Chief Editor, and Professor Xu Chen MA, the present Chief Editor, and members in the editorial board, the journal has changed from mainly publishing research papers already published in Chinese to now only publishing original research, mainly from China and also from abroad. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Chief Editors and to the Editorial Office on behalf of the Chinese Stomatological Association and our colleagues in China. I believe that the journal will overcome any difficulties it encounters with the support of our colleagues, and will become better and better.

I sincerely hope that the *Chinese Journal of Dental Research* will make contributions to creative research in stomatology in China and to the development of Chinese stomatology. I am sure that the journal will play an important role for Chinese stomatologists in the communication and exchange of academic works with their international colleagues and in the academic advancement of Chinese stomatology!

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