

## When Silver Touches Titanium



This year the Academy of Osseointegration and *The International Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Implants* celebrate their 25th or silver anniversaries. The Academy and JOMI have been linked both formally and informally throughout this quarter century. The first link was the editor of the journal, William R. Laney, who is also the first and second president of the AO. Today it's hard to imagine how one individual could lead a new organization while simultaneously developing a new journal. Even more amazing is the level of achievement associated with these ventures. The consistent growth in membership of the Academy and in circulation of the journal is testimony to the vision of this unique individual.

The selection of JOMI as the official journal for the AO seemed to be a logical choice. At the time, most implant journals were devoted to case reports and expert opinions. It was rare that hard science would find its way into publications that discussed the use of dental implants. This situation changed dramatically with the advent of osseointegration, primarily because this approach to treatment began in the laboratory rather than the operatory. Over the ensuing 25 years, the commitment to scientific investigation has grown to the point that it is hard to imagine a time when implants were considered to be a risky approach to the management of partial or complete edentulism.

As the AO celebrates its silver anniversary, this might be a good time to consider the implications of such an event. The designation of a 25th anniversary as a silver anniversary seems quite appropriate. It recognizes the achievement by naming it after a precious metal while, at the same time, selecting a metal that requires effort to maintain its beauty. An organization that has survived 25 years without constant attention to detail will demonstrate all the tarnish associated with a neglected piece of silver jewelry. On the contrary, an organization that consistently reassesses its position in an effort to remain contemporary and relevant will continue to present a luminous appearance.

I'm happy to observe that the AO continues to show itself in a most favorable light, avoiding the corrosive factors that diminish an organization over time. In contrast to groups that provide an annual rerun of their last year's meeting, the AO consistently pushes the envelope with meetings that feature a combination of the most progressive thinkers in the field,



along with some of the most artistic practitioners in the world of implant dentistry.

However, it isn't only about the main podium. The AO provides a venue for oral research and poster presentations. It provides an opportunity for presentation of clinical innovations. Recognizing that the future of any organization is improved when new members are embraced, this group consistently invites and funds student attendance. Moreover, student programs have been conducted to encourage graduate and undergraduate students to embrace implant dentistry.

The most farsighted actions of the AO involve its willingness to support scientific sessions outside of the annual meeting. An example of this is the meeting that the AO is convening this summer that will provide a description of new methods for tooth replacement. In addition to the scientific symposia, there will be a discussion of outcomes that should be routinely considered when discussing clinical studies.

I hope you agree that JOMI continues on a favorable path. The journal consistently receives and publishes articles from authors throughout the world. It is rare that one author will have more than one article in any one issue; this is a comment that is unique for JOMI. The impact factor for the journal remains in the top third of all dental journals and it does this with a modest number of self-citations. Lastly, the journal seems to be a location for publication of proceedings of scientific meetings such as the ITI Consensus Conferences as well as the AO State of the Science in Implant Dentistry.

Indeed, there are many organizations and journals in implant dentistry that are well-organized and motivated to advance this discipline. To a great extent the clinician benefits from the healthy competition among these organizations as groups in a competitive environment, such as continuing education, either improve or they disappear. Specific to the AO and JOMI, it certainly appears that its Silver Anniversary will be a good indication that the next goal will be gold, as in its Golden Anniversary.

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