



Do we know enough?

2012 has started positively: together with this issue you will also receive the second supplement of EJOI dedicated to marginal bone maintenance around endosseous oral implants generated from a consensus conference held at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm on 8 and 9 September 2011. During recent years there have been several 'consensus conferences' in the field of oral implantology and I have just returned from attending another one. It is very good that there is a genuine interest in formulating evidence-based recommendations to help clinicians determine the best interventions for their patients. The current problem of the consensus conferences is the substantial lack of reliable scientific evidence for making reliable clinical recommendations. The correct understanding of this situation is the first fundamental step in the right direction. If we do realise that there is a problem, it is more likely that we will consider solving it. I feel this is the biggest difference between Europe and the other side of the

ocean. Here we are finally starting to realise that we have a problem, while on the other side everything is perfect and with 99.99% success. So why should we worry? Then, if someone digs a bit deeper, he or she may realise that the 99.99% was directly derived from an *in vitro* study simulated on a computer, or from an animal study (one poor animal implanted with 12 unloaded implants), or extrapolated from a retrospective study having a mean follow-up of 5 years (ranging from 0 to 10 years) on clinical charts (patients were not actually recalled) without even bothering to consider the drop-outs.

EJOI wishes to recognise that there is insufficient knowledge and also some problems, and therefore wishes to help clinicians find the correct solutions for them.

Happy reading,
Marco Esposito
Editor-in-Chief