

Collegiality

Prior to the founding of this journal, when the idea of a journal devoted to implant dentistry was being discussed, it became clear that the journal had to be an international publication. A little over 2 decades ago there was no geographic monopoly on knowledge, and this is just as true today. JOMI receives submissions from 6 of the 7 continents, and I think the only thing holding Antarctica back is the absence of a permanent human population (penguins don't need implants). The largest number of submissions comes from Europe, but it is closely followed by South and North America. Considering submissions by country, it seems that colleagues from Brazil, the United States, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Japan, and Spain are burning the midnight oil to publish their research activities. I think it is exciting that we have such a broad group of authors.

Not only do we see geographic diversity, but a vast array of subjects is being discussed. Articles cover a spectrum of topics, including new materials, technique variations, basic science research, biomechanics, and clinical effects from changes in therapy. In addition, these articles come from a group of authors who reflect the who's who of implant dentistry.

Maybe we should not be surprised by this worldwide effort. Consider Thomas Friedman's international bestseller *The World is Flat* about the way in which technology has leveled the playing field between countries and individuals. Although this book primarily described the transition to a global economy, I think the same can be said regarding the nature of scientific endeavors. Now, more than ever before, we seem to be recognizing that we all share similar experiences and all gain from information provided by others.

In addition to the written word, we also gain knowledge through lectures and group discussions. Having been fortunate enough to travel throughout

the world, I've had the chance to experience this sharing of information firsthand. Indeed, this is a wonderful time to be involved in the dental profession, as we continue to expand our knowledge and refine our skills. While we do this we also get to observe other cultures and gain new friends.

Working with colleagues is always rewarding, but it is probably even more so when we share more than just dental knowledge. I think this is the true meaning of collegiality. Not only does working together engender respect for the ability of others, but mutual appreciation is fostered when interests are shared. This ongoing development is certainly something that should give us pride. It is one of the ways that we ensure the success of the profession.

Perhaps it is now the time to establish new levels of collegiality. Maybe now is the time to think about succession? Osseointegration appeared on the global scene about 25 years ago; thus, even the youngest clinicians at that time are now looking carefully at their retirement plans. Sure they (we) have some time yet, but during that time it would be nice to embrace the next generation of standard bearers.

Maybe the logical sequence is to move from student to colleague and then to mentor. In the past this progression was described as "See one, do one, teach one." There is obvious wisdom in this classic approach, as it resupplies the profession in a way that is rewarding to each generation. Whether one dispenses or receives information, pleasure is derived and the profession gains.



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