New Year, New Opportunities

The year 2020 will remain in our memories as a historic year that caused troubles and worries worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also as an inspiring year that created numerous new opportunities. Social events such as meetings and conferences had to be switched to digital formats, which induced the development of new creative ways to virtually deliver scientific information and connect the community.

Interactions with the readership of scientific journals, like the Bring the Journal to Life initiative, or the very active social media journal groups, such as the IJP Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/Internationaljournalofprosthodontics)—which is exhibiting a growing number of members—are just a few of many examples.

Congresses had to be moved to digital stages, and for this, many different concepts that we did not think of before were invented last year. The European Association for Osseointegration and its task force under the leadership of President Prof Henning Schliephake has set the ground for an entirely new congress experience with their Digital Days, showing that scientific content can be delivered soundly in many ways, including TV show-like programs in the late evening hours. The International College of Prosthodontists (ICP) recently initiated an ICP Speakers Bureau led by Dr Carlos Parra, ICP Board Councillor, an entity that will help promote the specialty of prosthodontics throughout the world by creating collaborative meetings between the ICP and other prosthodontic associations by sharing speakers and exchanging knowledge—an initiative which will bear its first fruits at this year’s virtual meeting of the Chilean Prosthodontic Society.

Check it out!

Other organizations explore hybrid formats, with some of the speakers, moderators, and audience present and the others online. And this is all just the beginning of a new era. It appears as if the COVID-19–related restrictions will keep on for quite a while, and the task now will be to keep up the enthusiasm for new challenges, as well as the emotional connection and dedication of teams within our community. From a scientific point of view, this creates new opportunities for research as well. Considering prosthodontics, a focus should be made on new means for (virtual) communication and new ways to deliver even faster and safer treatments. The worldwide circumstances present new challenges for young researchers, but also new opportunities for upcoming talents in prosthodontic science and clinics. We are looking forward to an upcoming period of great publications of prosthodontic literature!

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the entire Editorial Board team,

Irena Sailer, Editor-in-Chief

Introducing Our New Section Editor

Prof Dr Daniel Thoma is vice chairman at the Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry, University of Zurich, Switzerland. He graduated in 2000 from the University of Basel, Switzerland, and was trained in implant dentistry and prosthodontics at the Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry, University of Zurich. Dr Thoma was the recipient of an International Team for Implantology scholarship and spent a year at the Department of Periodontics, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA. Between 2008 and 2012, he was a full-time senior teaching and research assistant at the Clinic of Reconstructive Dentistry at the University of Zurich. In 2016, Dr Thoma was a visiting associate professor at the Department of Periodontology, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea. Since 2020, Dr Thoma has been an adjunct professor and serves as the head of reconstructive dentistry.