It has been said that Dr Ivar Mjör is a straightforward man. He much prefers to avoid sidewarding steps and get straight to the point. He's direct with his friends, and he's goal-driven in his dental career.

Dr Mjör, a native Norwegian, has been ambitious in his goal to achieve success in his career. Influenced in part by a brother, an uncle, and an aunt who were dentists, he attended dental school in Scotland and received his dental degree in 1957. After military service as a dentist, Dr Mjör left Norway to study at the University of Alabama; there he received an MSD in pedodontics and an MS in anatomy, and met Dr Sidney B. Finn, then chairman of the Department of Pedodontics, whom he admires to this day.

Three years later, he returned to Norway to join the Norwegian Institute of Dental Research, where he was involved in research and completed a doctorate in research under the tutelage of the renowned Dr Birger Nygaard-Østby. He then was made Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Oslo, Dental Faculty in 1970. In 1973 he was appointed Director of NIOM, the Scandinavian Institute of Dental Materials, and Head of its Biological/Clinical Division.

He returned to the United States in 1993 to teach in the Department of Operative Dentistry at the University of Florida. Teaching has challenged him to satisfy the inquisitive minds of students at all levels, and he finds reward when they accept and apply knowledge to their studies and practice.

Dentistry is fulfilling for him also because of its multifaceted and challenging nature. Throughout his career Dr Mjör has been actively involved in research, studying several areas before settling into his own specialty of "clinical/biological dentistry." He is known for his dedicated advocacy of amalgam.

Stating dislike of interference with the progress of dentistry, especially "political," he has hopes that fluoride will enter developing countries in the near future. "It took 40 years from the demonstration of the positive effect of fluoride in dentistry until it had an effect on preventive dentistry in the so-called developed world. I hope its effect on dentistry in developing countries will occur much quicker."

Dr Mjör has much experience in publishing, having been the Editor-in-Chief of Acta Odontologica Scandinavica from 1977 to 1991, an editor and main contributor to five textbooks, and an author/coauthor of 240 publications.

As a section editor, Dr Mjör has a couple of suggestions for readers: Watch out for in vitro results, especially if they are extrapolated to be valid for clinical situations. Also, be aware that not everything that is statistically significant is clinically significant. And for authors: "The referee(s) and the author(s) have a common goal. Therefore, use referee comments, even the critical ones, to improve the manuscript."

Despite his many honors and involvements in the field, Dr Mjör remains modest, a trait true to his Norwegian heritage. "This (profile) is as un-Norwegian as anything can be!! I must be turning American."