

A TIME FOR CELEBRATION

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Life-cycle events like births, weddings, graduations, communions, bar mitzvahs, birthdays, and even dates of demise are how we chart our journey through life and history. Organizations are no different. This issue of the *Journal of Oral Implantology* relates many of those life-cycle events in the history of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID). As you read through this issue, I am sure you will experience a renewed sense of pride and feel a true connection with all the accomplishments of our membership. That the AAID was formed at a time when almost all in the profession challenged the legitimacy of implant therapy and that it has prospered and grown to its current accepted status is a tribute to those who persevered. The members' belief in implantology as a way to help patients, and a willingness to put themselves on the line for that belief, stands as a continuing testament to their spirit.

Dr Fred Metz, in his book *The History and Development of Dental Implants and Other Trivia*, describes taking a course with Drs Gershkoff and Goldberg in the summer of 1951. His enthusiasm took him back to Denver to find his first implant patient, a search he mentioned to Dr Kresse, a local dentist skilled in denture fabrication. Over a month later, Dr Kresse found Dr Metz's first implant case: Dr Kresse's recep-

tionist. According to Dr Metz, this initial case was still functioning in 1981 when he wrote his book. Afterward, Drs Metz and Kresse attempted to create a new organization with a first unofficial meeting in Chicago. Thirteen people attended, and although Dr Metz could not, he was included as a charter member.

From these humble beginnings, the AAID has developed a membership that covers the planet. Today implant dentistry is considered mainstream and part of almost every dentist's treatment options. We have certainly come a long way, but as an organization we have been true to the original intentions of the charter members. We have fostered education in implant dentistry to all who sought it. We have continued to advance the field. As an inclusive group, we bring information to all who seek knowledge about implants, who strive for validated credentials, who wish to return patients to good dental health, and who wish to share their knowledge and experience with all who will listen.

As you read this issue, I am sure you will feel the pride that comes from being involved with such a dedicated and committed group of people. I am sure that in the years to come, new methods and modalities will improve what is already a successful and predictable form of treatment. I am equally sure that the AAID will continue to play a leadership role in the history and practice of implant dentistry. ■

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