

## I N T R O D U C T I O N T O T H I S I S S U E

## Foreword

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We begin the year 2008 with an ambitious *varia* issue in which we present a number of aspects of our profession. Detection of anomalies, functional therapies, orthopedics, occlusal finishing, and basic research... the pages that unfold from this point forward complete our thoughts without closely resembling each other.

Therapeutics takes a leading position in all of its manifold varieties. Which of us has not been lost in perplexity at the close of a full-banded treatment in a fruitless effort to achieve simultaneous Class I relationships of both cuspids and molars? And to the question of posterior arch length discrepancy, elucidated in a highly interesting fashion by Oueiss and colleagues, responses will certainly be forthcoming.

In original articles, contributing authors propose variations on the theme of orthopedic treatment of Class II malocclusions with extra-oral force and mandibular advancement appliances:

Armed with vast clinical experience with the Herbst appliance, Michel Amoric has conceived of possible adaptations in its use, notably with uncovering of splints. A little further on in this tome, Peyrolade, *et al.* present a cephalometric study on

results achieved with a face bow and anterior bite plate in cases with serious sagittal discrepancies and deep anterior overbite. But mechanics are not everything... C. Boucher *et al.* offer for our instruction the results of a prospective study on myofunctional therapy associated with the wearing of a "Trainer" appliance after rapid palatal expansion for patients with Class II skeletal malocclusions.

While clinical studies are certainly important, the fundamental aspects of our discipline are equally critical. What is the cellular response to the orthopedic forces we employ? What molecular cascades in the region of the condyles do we set off with our mandibular advancement devices? This ODF journal gives you a chance to inspect a basic research article on adaptive remodeling of condylar cartilage examined in the light of the latest research in growth factors that is a translation of an essay by Shen *et al* originally published in the Journal of Dental Research.

Our role in the highly important enterprise of early detection of disease is discussed through the presentation of two cases where anomalies were discovered by chance. Vernex-Boukerma invites us all to follow a research study of *spina bifida*,

a rare disorder in the cranio-rachidienne framework, undertaken with profile cephalograms. And Bahije *et al*, through a case illustrated radiographically over a 7 year period remind us not to ignore the possibility that delayed calcification, not agenesis, may be at the root of certain perplexing problems.

*and, finally, this issue would be sadly incomplete without the cultural historical touch that J. Philippe brings to it as he outlines the history of the birth of the edgewise appliance.*

*A warm thank you to all the authors who have contributed to the truly varia richness of this issue.*