

Chapter Twelve

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Prosthodontics 21

Recognizing the importance of planning for the future, in 1986 the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations (FPO) House of Delegates passed a resolution to begin the planning and organization of a national symposium on prosthodontics for the twenty-first century.¹ The symposium was three years in the making with many Academy of Prosthodontics (Academy/AP) fellows and prosthodontic colleagues serving as the faculty to facilitate the landmark event. In 1989, Prosthodontics 21, a national symposium under the aegis of the FPO, was held at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.² Academy Fellow William R. Laney led the discussion on the anticipated needs of prosthodontic education and research in the twenty-first century. Academy Fellow Brien R. Lang assisted in organizing the plenary and focused sessions. Academy Fellow Ronald P. Desjardins served as editor of the Prosthodontics 21 *JPD* publications. Academy Fellow I. Kenneth Adisman and Dr. Cosmo V. DeSteno served as the Support and Resources Committee. The FPO and the Symposium Organizing Committee were indebted for the generous contributions in support of Prosthodontics 21, which made it all possible. That included regional and national organizations as well as corporate sponsors and publishers:

Academy of Denture Prosthetics
American College of Prosthodontists
Editorial Council of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*
Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations
Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics
International Circuit Courses, Inc. (APS)
American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry
American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics
American Academy of Implant Dentistry
American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics
American Prosthodontic Society
Detroit Dental Clinic Club, Prosthodontic Section
Midwest Academy of Prosthodontics
Northeastern Gnathological Society
Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics
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Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics Research Foundation
Mayo Clinic, Mayo Foundation
National Institutes of Health, Division of Research Resources



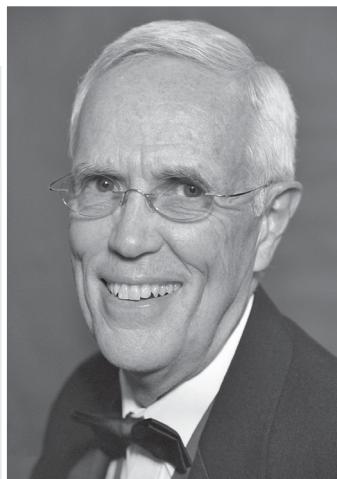
▲ Dr. William R. Laney



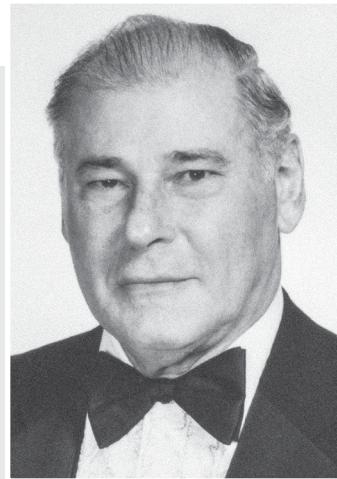
▲ Dr. Brien R. Lang

Three major areas of prosthodontic involvement were selected for consideration by the symposium participants: clinical practice, education, and research. Six study sections were organized to consider specific questions or topics related to 1) clinical practice/professional affairs, 2) clinical practice/delivery of services, 3) clinical practice/third-party relations, 4) education, 5) research, and 6) marketing. Each section consisted of a chairperson, reviewer, and secretary, along with twelve to fifteen contributors that provided a broad multidisciplinary spectrum of communities of interest.

The symposium also included a workshop on implant prosthodontics for directors of accredited advanced education programs in prosthodontics. Under the direction of the FPO Education and Research Committee, the workshop participants discussed potential changes in the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation standards for prosthodontics that would establish implant prosthodontics as a basic component of advanced prosthodontic education curricula.



▲ Dr. Ronald P. Desjardins



▲ Dr. I. Kenneth Adisman

The objectives for Prosthodontics 21 were:

1. Assess the current status of prosthodontics as a discipline and specialty of dentistry with regard to clinical practice, education, and research.
2. Encourage the exchange of ideas and stimulate thought among the assembled participants concerning pertinent socioeconomic issues facing prosthodontics. Among these are the need and demand for services, specialist-generalist relations, marketing of services, third-party support resources, dentist-laboratory relations, and the impact of denturism on the quality of patient care.
3. Appraise the current status of the delivery of prosthodontic services to an aging population requiring quality special care.
4. Make recommendations for future action related to proposals that evolve from discussions of clinical practice, education, and research pertaining to prosthodontics and related fields.

The conclusions of the symposium were distinctly expressed as statements of future policy and recommendations.³ Additionally, the consensus recommendations for changes in the accreditation standards would be forwarded to the FPO for consideration. It was recognized that the FPO would need to address the issues identified with definitive plans for future action in coordination with other organizations, institutions, agencies, industries, and individuals.⁴⁻²⁴ The true measure of a successful outcome is dependent on achieving specific goals that are correlated to the prescribed objectives. For example, the vision for Prosthodontics 21 included an emphasis on critical appraisal in prosthodontics, designed to improve publication standards as a measurable outcome.

The Research Committee posed several questions concerning numerous future policy considerations and made two specific recommendations: 1) introduction of research centers that include a prosthodontic section, and 2) establishment of a prosthodontic research training symposium. Both recommendations reflected profound and legitimate concerns regarding future discipline-related clinical scholarship. It was recognized that the traditional emphasis on ingenious intra- and extra-oral salvage protocols reflected an impressive high standard of a quasi-handicraft approach to dental treatment. However, it was also acknowledged that the prevailing approach in most graduate programs tended to preclude recognition of the promise of applied clinical biotechnology and that new research directions were needed. Moreover, it had to be admitted that implementation of both recommendations would require considerable time-dependent planning and substantial funding that would only result following extensive feasibility analyses.

Consequently, the second recommendation prompted Academy Fellow George A. Zarb to recruit his University of Toronto colleague Dr. James D. Anderson (who had recently completed a sabbatical year studying clinical epidemiology with Dr. David Sackett²⁵ at McMaster University Medical School in Hamilton, Ontario) to organize a unique program at McMaster for a select number of senior prosthodontic educators to learn the required skills of evidence-based rigor as applied to clinical prosthodontic research. Dr. Anderson had already introduced a clinical epidemiology teaching format into the Toronto graduate prosthodontic program, and it was his McMaster connection that led to the preparation of the 1993 and 1994 workshops on critical appraisal as a foundation for the development of evidence-based dentistry (EBD) applied to the discipline. The proposed workshops were to also serve as a catalyst for reconciling diverse



◀ Dr. George Zarb



► Dr. Dale Smith

factors that underpinned past, current, and future directions in the clinical specialty and would then be promulgated amongst graduate program directors to ensure the development of critical appraisal rigor in prosthodontic education and research. The collective effort would be followed by a selection of evidence-based dentistry articles^{26,27} for publication plus consideration given to specific EBD programs to be held by the AP during future annual sessions.

The scholarly initiative was supported by the FPO, and following its successful completion,²⁸ Academy Fellow Dale E. Smith undertook the responsibility of seeking support for a similar “customized” training program for a small number of senior North American prosthodontic educators. The FPO Research Symposium Planning Committee was comprised of Drs. James D. Anderson, Cosmo V. DeSteno, Jack D. Gerrow, Robert D. Schweitzer, George A. Zarb, and Dale E. Smith (chair). The result was the Prosthodontic Research Symposium (PSR), planned for June 10–15, 1985, in Chicago with the objective of inviting fifty participants. Preference was given to those individuals involved in prosthodontic training programs where the impact would be greatest.

A summation of the resultant workshop ethos and its impact on both the original attendees and all those who embraced the necessary rigor and commitment in their subsequent scholarly activities is acknowledged in the following references as well as the editorials that were concurrently published in the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants*, the *International Journal of Prosthodontics*, and the *Journal of Prosthodontics* in September 1994, signaling a clarion call for a new beginning²⁹ and the opportunity to redefine the standards.³⁰



▲ Dr. Jack Gerrow

The following organizations contributed to the PSR program: the Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations, Editorial Council of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, American College of Prosthodontists, Association of Prosthodontists of Canada, Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics, Academy

of Prosthodontics Foundation, American Prosthodontic Society, Quintessence Publishing Company, Northeastern Gnathological Society, Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics, National Association of Dental Laboratories, American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics, American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, Academy of Osseointegration, and American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry.

The other Prosthodontic 21 section domains were the clinical practice: professional affairs, delivery of services, and third-party relations, followed by education and marketing. The published literature reviews and discussions of the section reports amplified the current understanding and indicated the direction to be undertaken. As noted in Chapter 8, FPO activities were ongoing, with all six study sections held before the FPO dissolved in 1994. These endeavors were advanced further by the American College of Prosthodontists (ACP). Significant progress has been made in education, as noted in Chapter 9, with advanced education programs in prosthodontics. This was made evident by the activities of prosthodontic CODA commissioners, resulting in an improved accreditation review of methodology as well as developing prosthodontic standards such as implant placement (one

The poster features a large, stylized arrow pointing diagonally upwards and to the right. Inside the arrow, the word "PROSTHODONTICS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the arrow is a large, dark grey star shape containing the number "21". Below the arrow and star, the text reads: "A National Symposium addressing issues to prepare the dental profession for new creative prosthodontic programs of patient service, education and research in the 21st century." At the bottom left, there is a logo for the "FEDERATION OF PROSTHODONTIC ORGANIZATIONS" featuring a stylized "P" and "S" intertwined. The text "Sponsored by:" is above this logo. To the right, the location and date are listed: "Siebens Education Building Mayo Medical Center Rochester, Minnesota October 1-5, 1989".

◀ Prosthodontics 21

of the Prosthodontics 21 goals). The joint educator conferences, prosthodontic review and continuing education courses, Prosthopedia, compilation texts and e-books, and more added to the exchange of knowledge. Many of these activities, including the ADA re-recognition of the specialty of prosthodontics, were championed by the ACP. Methods to improve the marketing of prosthodontics by the ACP include informational television and radio broadcasts, National Prosthodontic Awareness Week and social media toolkits, cancer awareness and screening programs, numerous patient education pamphlets and coffee table books, and practice management and public relations guidelines including professional spokesperson training. Assessments of the clinical practice aspects are difficult to perform without the appropriate metrics in place to assess outcomes that are unique to prosthodontics. While informational reporting on this worthy clinical practice section is important, it is beyond the intended scope of this text.

It is hoped that perusal of this information provides the reader with a keen sense of what was initiated at the October 1989 Mayo Symposium and insight into the significant outcomes. Prosthodontics 21 was an extraordinary intellectual stimulus for our discipline. It catalyzed a coherent surge in scholarly growth as it paved the way for the blending of the twin dominant concepts that followed: Per-Ingvar Branemark's introduction of osseointegration that is described in Chapter 11 and the formalized approach to evidence-based dentistry that is outlined in Chapter 14. It was therefore gratifying to have the opportunity to be part of a generation of clinical educators that presided over developments that helped enrich prosthodontic patients' quality of life and the discipline's ethos.

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