

Chapter Six

Keith J. Ferro, Clifford W. VanBlarcom, Steven M. Morgano, and David W. Bartlett

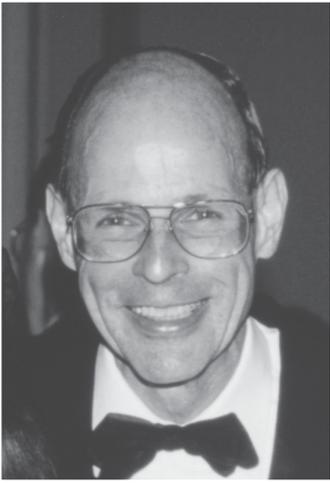
The Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms

The Academy of Prosthodontics (Academy/AP) continues to maintain the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms (Glossary/GPT), which is in its ninth edition and is accepted worldwide as the leading source of prosthodontic terminology. Other prosthodontic organizations are encouraged to provide new terms and definitions to the Nomenclature Committee for revisions of the Glossary.

The Glossary is the gold standard for terms and definitions in the specialty and discipline of prosthodontics. In any professional field, universally accepted terminology is essential for communication among colleagues and for advancement of the field. The specialty of prosthodontics is no different. When prosthodontics was recognized as a specialty of dentistry by the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates in 1947, there was no official glossary of terms for this new specialty. In the first half of the twentieth century, prosthodontic terms were inconsistent, with substantial lack of agreement on the terms that should be used and on their definitions. A dictionary devoted to terms in medicine and dentistry was first published in the nineteenth century, but this dictionary and its subsequent editions had limited applicability to the specialty of prosthodontics.^{1,2}

Recognizing the need for a glossary devoted exclusively to the specialty, the Academy embarked on an endeavor to create an official glossary. During two “workshops,” almost 1,000 terms were studied and debated by the Nomenclature Committee of the Academy. In 1956, the first edition of the Glossary was published, and it represented a monumental effort by some of the best minds and forward-thinking individuals in the specialty. Dr. Carl O. Boucher, the first editor of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry (JPD)* and former president of the Academy, served as the chair of the Nomenclature Committee, which included Drs. Richard H. Kingery, LeRoy E. Kurth, Victor H. Sears, Vincent R. Trapozzano, and Jack Werner.³ The preface to the first edition gave special recognition to Dr. George B. Denton of the Bureau of Library and Indexing of the ADA for his advice in preparing the Glossary.⁴

This Glossary represented the initial step in officially recognizing and defining terms. As new information became available and new techniques and materials were developed and introduced, it became clear that this Glossary would require regular revisions. Editors for subsequent editions were Drs. Carl O. Boucher (second edition), Judson C. Hickey (third edition),⁵ I. Kenneth Adisman (fourth edition),⁶ Jack Preston (fifth edition),⁷ and Clifford W. VanBlarcom (sixth, seventh, and eighth editions).⁸⁻¹⁰ The fifth



◀ Dr. Jack Preston, chair of the Nomenclature Committee that developed the fifth edition of the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms (GPT)



▶ Dr. Clifford VanBlarcom, chair of the Nomenclature Committee that developed the sixth, seventh, and eighth editions of the GPT



◀ In 1987, the Nomenclature Committee, consisting of (left to right) Drs. Krishan Kapur, George Zarb, David Wands, Jack Preston (chair), and Robert Sprigg, met to review the proposed terms for the fifth edition of the Glossary.

edition represented the first major revision of the Glossary. The sixth, seventh, and eighth editions further expanded the scope of the Glossary to include explanatory notes along with pronunciation, functional labels, etymology, first citation dates, usage labels, and an abbreviated history of some terms.¹¹ In an effort to make the GPT widely useful, an open invitation was sent to dental communities of interest to participate by contributing terms and their definitions to the Nomenclature Committee. Thirty-three organizations contributed to the GPT Eighth Edition (see Table 6-1. Organizations Participating in the Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms).¹² The Glossary (GPT-8) was published in the *JPD* in 2005 and also was transferred to a USB drive for distribution at the 2006 Annual Meeting in San Francisco to all fellows and guests of the Academy.

The Glossary is now in its ninth edition and was published by the *JPD* in May 2017 as an electronic version, available at no charge online, and also as a web app.¹³ This ninth edition was compiled under the leadership of Dr. Keith J. Ferro, editor and chair of the GPT Committee, along with committee members Drs. Steven M. Morgano (copy editor), Carl F. Driscoll, Martin A. Freilich, Albert D. Guckes, Kent L. Knoernschild, and Thomas J. McGarry. Drs. Arun Sharma and Baldwin Marchack oversaw the development of the Glossary web app.



▲ Dr. Keith Ferro, chair of the GPT Committee that developed the ninth edition of the GPT



▲ Dr. Steven Morgano, copy editor of the GPT



▲ Dr. Carl Driscoll



▲ Dr. Martin Freilich

The task of revising the ninth edition of the Glossary began with consulting all prosthodontic program directors by using a Delphi survey technique followed by surveying selected fellows of the Academy.

The survey asked three questions relative to each term in the eighth edition:

- this is NOT a prosthodontic term? (yes/no);
- this term is obsolete? (yes/no); and
- this term needs to be changed? (yes/no).

Results of these surveys were used as a starting point to determine which terms should be deleted because they were no longer relevant to prosthodontics, which terms were obsolete or out of place in a modern-day glossary, and which definitions or terms required modification.

Revision of the Glossary required routine copy editing to correct typographical errors, errors in punctuation, errors in alphabetical sequencing of terms, and problems with lack of consistency, as well as factual errors in some of the definitions. Considerable research was necessary to validate the scientific accuracy of definitions that were questionable. Expert opinion from a number of sources was required. The development of new terms and new definitions was also a substantial undertaking. Major prosthodontic organizations and journal editors were consulted with regard to the necessity of adding new terms that had been in common use for years but were not listed, such as “Pound’s triangle,” as well as the need to add terms that had been recently coined by the profession as a result of emerging advancements in materials, techniques, or technology.

The most contentious term in the entire revision process was “centric relation.” In 1929, Rudolph Hanau¹⁴ stated, “I have defined centric relation as that position of the mandible in which the condyle heads are resting upon the menisci in the sockets of the glenoid fossae, regardless of the opening of the jaws, and have stated that the relation is either strained or unstrained.” This was the definition of a term that was in widespread use at the time. Nevertheless, in the ensuing years, many complex and controversial definitions of this term were introduced.



▲ Dr. David Bartlett



▲ Dr. Albert Guckes



▲ Dr. Kent Knoernschild



▲ Dr. Thomas McGarry

In the first edition of the Glossary, centric relation was defined as “the most retruded relation of the mandible to the maxillae when the condyles are in the most posterior unstrained position in the glenoid fossae from which lateral movements can be made, at any given degree of jaw separation.”⁴ The fifth edition represented a major change, wherein centric relation is defined as “a maxillomandibular relationship in which the condyles articulate with the thinnest avascular portion of their respective disks with the complex in the anterior-superior position against the slopes of the articular eminences. This position is independent of tooth contact. This position is clinically discernible when the mandible is directed superiorly and anteriorly and restricted to a purely rotary movement about a transverse horizontal axis. This term is in transition to obsolescence.”⁷ This definition was originally written by Dr. Frank V. Celenza, with the sentence about “obsolescence” added by the committee. The eighth edition had seven definitions for centric relation, but the first definition (preferred) was similar to the fifth edition definition.

An ad hoc subcommittee was formed by Dr. Ferro to formulate a singular, all-inclusive definition for the ninth edition. Members of the subcommittee were Academy Fellows Gary R. Goldstein, Steven M. Morgano, Jonathan P. Wiens, and Keith J. Ferro. Two definitions were written by two of the subcommittee members. These two definitions were submitted to the members of the GPT Committee, who were asked to choose one of them. The committee members chose the definition, “a maxillomandibular relationship, independent of tooth contact, in which the condyles articulate in the anterior-superior position against the posterior slopes of the articular eminences; in this position, the mandible is restricted to a purely rotary movement; from this unstrained, physiologic, maxillomandibular relationship, the patient can make vertical, lateral, or protrusive movements; it is a clinically useful, repeatable reference position.”⁷ This definition was a composite of a number of previous definitions and was structured to ensure a single comprehensive definition. Other methods of deriving a definition for centric relation were explored by directly surveying the fellowship.^{15, 16}

The Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms is one of the “crown jewels” of the Academy, and the Academy is very grateful to the members of the original Nomenclature Committee

and all subsequent committees for their efforts to keep this glossary updated and relevant. The chairs of these committees deserve special thanks for their leadership. The Glossary is used worldwide as the gold standard for terms and definitions in the specialty and discipline of prosthodontics, and the impact is felt globally on the practice of prosthodontics. The ninth edition is the most comprehensive revision ever achieved. There were 12,775 changes made in the ninth edition with 163 deleted terms and 316 modified or newly added terms. It is a living document that will continue to be revised periodically to keep up with the fast-paced changes in our knowledge and understanding of prosthodontics.¹⁷

► Glossary cover page

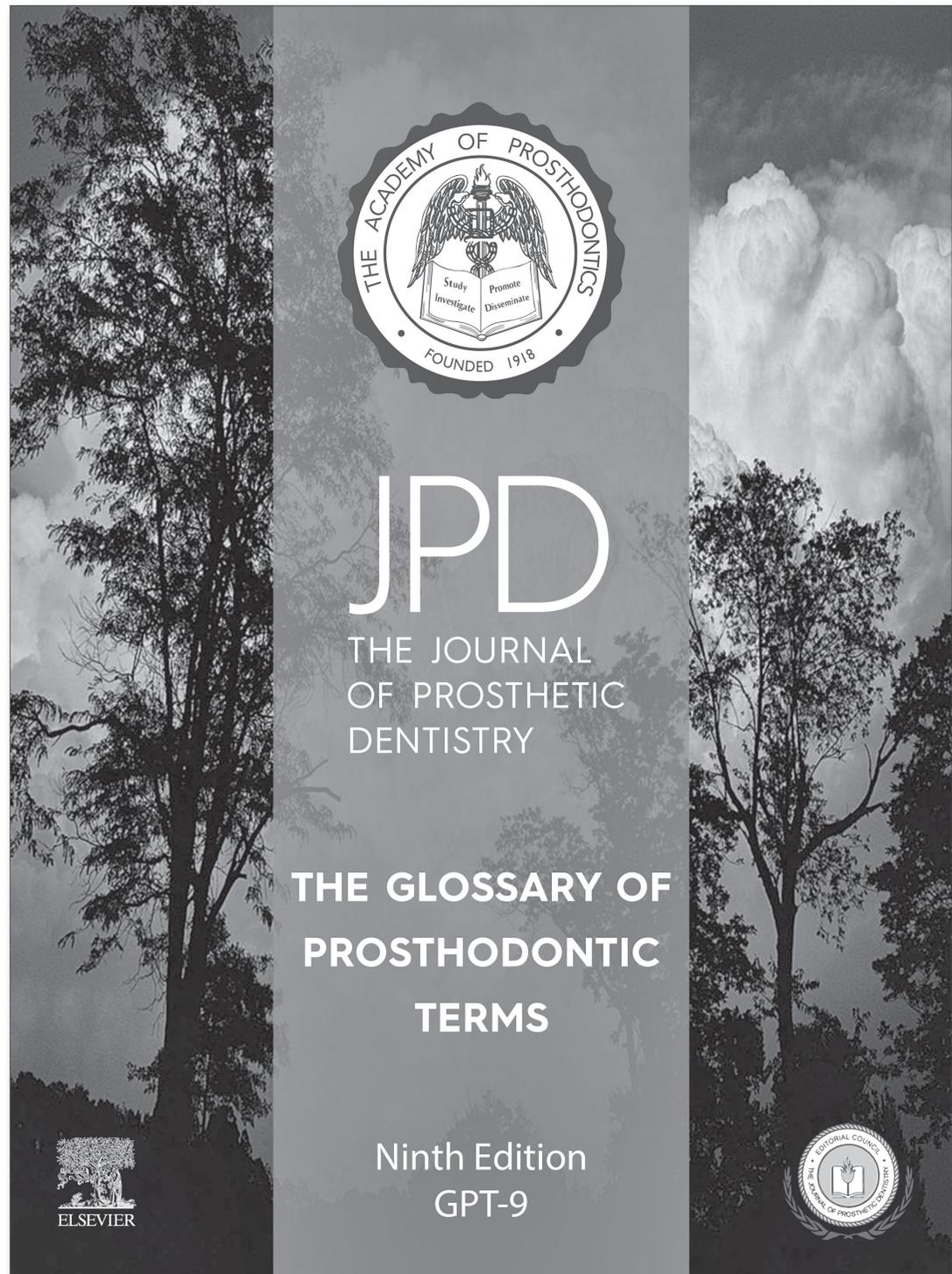


TABLE 6-1. THE 33 ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE GLOSSARY OF PROSTHODONTIC TERMS (GPT-8)

The Academy of Osseointegration	The British Society for the Study of Prosthetic Dentistry
The Academy of Prosthodontics	The Carl O. Boucher Prosthodontic Conference
The American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry	The Editorial Council of the <i>Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry</i>
The American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics	The European Prosthodontic Association
The American Academy of Implant Prosthodontics	The Florida Prosthodontic Association
The American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics	The Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics
The American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology	The Indian Prosthodontic Society
The American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	The Italian Academy of Prosthetic Dentistry
The American Academy of Restorative Dentistry	The Korean Academy of Prosthodontics
The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons	The Midwest Academy of Prosthodontics
The American Board of Prosthodontics	The Northeastern Gnathological Society
The American College of Prosthodontists	The Northeastern Prosthodontic Society
The American Dental Education Association	The Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics
The American Equilibration Society	The Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics
The American Prosthodontic Society	The Swiss Society of Reconstructive Dentistry
The Association of Prosthodontists of Canada	The Turkish Prosthodontics and Implantology Association
The Australian Prosthodontic Society	

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