

Dear Reader,

_Welcome to our fourth and final issue of 2011. I hope you have had a wonderful year in terms of your health, progress and prosperity!

The year 2011 was a very important one for aesthetic dentistry. The International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry, an apex body of aesthetic academies around the world, recently organised its seventh biennial scientific meeting in Rio de Janeiro in collaboration with the Brazilian Society of Aesthetic Dentistry. As executive council member and guest speaker at the meeting, I was excited to note the global trend towards cosmetic dentistry. With more than 1,100 registrations and delegates from all around the world, the meeting was very successful in sharing knowledge and experiences about the cosmetic dental practice in different parts of world. There were 42 oral presentations from the UK, Germany, Nepal, Greece, Korea, Japan, Italy, Israel, Belgium, Switzerland, the USA and host country Brazil. High quality clinical cases—many of them with a focus on excellence, precision and quality aesthetic case finishing—were presented by world-class clinicians.

As I have been advocating minimally invasive cosmetic dentistry for many years, it was quite exciting for me to note that almost all speakers mentioned the role of and their concern with the biological cost of the treatment they provide. Today, the Hollywood Smile concept is slowly fading. Aesthetic dentists are focusing on customised smile design with respect to naturo-mimetic dentistry and are applying minimally invasive approaches.

However, I have also noticed that while aesthetic case finishing and excellence in visual elements are in focus, invisible components, like occlusal forces, are not. Force finishing—balanced bite forces with harmonised teeth contact timing—is the missing link in cosmetic dentistry and must be incorporated to achieve long-term health, function and aesthetics of the cosmetic work that we perform.

I personally foresee that apart from aesthetic results, harmonised teeth, muscles and joints (TMJ) will become the major criteria in the future to evaluate clinical success in cosmetic dentistry. The value of function in achieving aesthetics will be better understood and slowly, the concept of TMJ harmony will be implemented in cosmetic dentistry for the true promotion of naturally pleasing, functionally balanced and healthy smiles for our patients.

In this issue, we have gathered various clinical articles related to your clinical practice and I hope you will enjoy them.

Yours faithfully,



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