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EDITORIAL

One World, One Maxillofacial Prosthodontics!



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Since the dawn of the 20th century, our world has been growing smaller and connected. In this interconnected world, our specialty of maxillofacial prosthodontics is at a pivotal juncture. From under resourced clinics providing prosthetic care restoring dignity to trauma survivors, to head and neck oncology and developmental deformities being restored in advanced medical centres, our specialty transcends borders, languages, systems of care and complexity, with a shared commitment to restore form, function and dignity. The phrase "One World, One Maxillofacial Prosthodontics" is not merely a slogan, but a dream of a vision of a unified and collaborative global approach to patient centric rehabilitation.

There has been considerable progress in the art and science of prosthodontics, with significant innovative advancement within maxillofacial prosthodontics. For maxillofacial prosthodontics to be successful it must be inherently interdisciplinary, collaborative and humanistic. Whether the ask is to replace a lost nose, or restoring a cleft palate, to rehabilitating function after oncologic resection, the work of the specialty touches the most intimate and identity defining aspects of our patients lives and of ours. Our work demands not just technical skill but also cultural sensitivity and empathy.

There does exists global disparity which must be acknowledged - from one end of the spectrum with centres pushing the envelope of advanced digital technologies and the entry of AI, to the other end, with challenges faced due to limited resources and access to training. These disparities can be profound and persisting in access to training, rehabilitation and technology. Although socio-economic status can affect the rehabilitation that one can obtain globally, it should not be defined by geography or financial standing but defined by the shared goal to restore form, function and dignity. To achieve this, we must narrow the gap, with collaboration and outreach, that will empower and sustain.

Therefore, it falls upon us individually and collectively to make this a reality. Collectively, professional organisations can champion these efforts with global outreach platforms, knowledge sharing and mutual alliances. With a vision to champion this stands the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (AAMP). As a premier organisation in this discipline, the Academy has strived to make advances in innovations, clinical excellence and setting standards that shape the profession globally. With its stated mission of advocating for the care of the maxillofacial patient and to promote education and research, it is on an endeavour to bring together clinicians, educators and researchers under a unified umbrella of inclusion and collaboration. Through its ongoing initiative such as international annual conferences, educational resources like webinars and alliances with global prosthodontic and maxillofacial communities, the Academy is transforming itself from a regional base to a shared global knowledge and innovation hub.

Looking ahead, it is up to each one of us to advocate for access to maxillofacial prosthodontic care of our patients, to educate and nurture the future of our discipline, i.e., clinicians, educators, researchers, technologists etc., to campaign for interdisciplinary collaboration and to reaffirm our global responsibility.

It is an oft quoted phrase "Unity in Diversity", but it is very apt in our discipline. We may be many hands and heads, but we are One world and One Maxillofacial Prosthodontics!

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