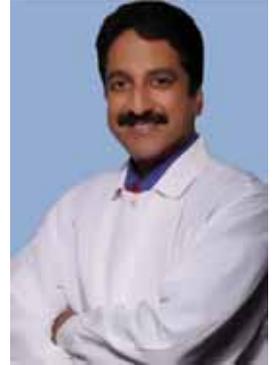


Editorial

Tribute to a Man with Inexhaustible Fund of Passion for Implant Dentistry

“Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul” – Samuel Ullman – This quote aptly describes the world renowned researcher Dr Haruyuki Kawahara. In the many years that I have known him, not once has he ever expressed that he is ready to retire from his active implant research. A couple of years ago he celebrated his 90th birthday without much fanfare and he was back in his lab continuing to do what he enjoys the best – to create some of the finest translational research studies in Osaka. He is perhaps the oldest and the longest contributing researcher in the field of Implant Dentistry. Many of the pioneers and doyens of clinical implant dentistry are forced to retire once their skills begin to deter their clinical acumen. For Dr Kawahara it is an endless pursuit – We are fortunate to feature some of his work on bone and biomechanics in this issue. One can see the extent of the minutia in his research. The laborious work on microstrain and micromovements influencing bone growth are fruits of his years of animal studies and histological correlation.



When all of his contributions and theories are reviewed, I often wonder why his recognition is not commensurate with the work that he produced. The answer points to the fact that he was not aligned with any corporate entity. We live in a world where we are at the mercy of corporate support and grants. Dr Kawahara’s research is one of the few independent studies that have contributed some unbiased information to Implant Dentistry.

He was the force behind creating the World Congress for Oral Implantology (WCOI), and it was his vision that clinicians from all over the world should convene once every three years to share their clinical successes and failures from the same podium. The WCOI global event is held once every three years.

Dr Kawahara still continues his research work with his son Dr Dai Kawahara who is one of our Associate Editors. His work is a testimony to his dedication and endless passion for Implant Dentistry. We as clinicians are indeed lucky that such devoted professionals still exist to complement our successful outcome with our patients.

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