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## The quest

**B**y the end of the nineteenth century, London was one of the largest cities in Europe. With the Industrial Revolution, thousands of people moved out to the metropolis, which was conducive to the outbreak of one of the greatest epidemics in human history.

All the filth, lack of sanitation, nonexistent public health policies and lack of knowledge of the scientific community caused the “plague,” or cholera, to spread, killing a considerable number of people within a short period of time. At that time, Medicine knew too little about microorganisms or the mechanism of disease spread; science was taking baby steps and that cost many human lives. With the evolution of medical sciences in the last century, antibiotics and vaccines gave us the false impression that we would be free from contagious and infectious diseases forever. We were so absolutely sure of that, that two decades after the discovery of penicillin,

an American medical-researcher claimed that humanity had entered a new era in which nobody else would die of infection.

At present, we know this is not true and the current scenario is quite different from what had been predicted. Every year, millions of people die of infectious and contagious diseases all around the world and epidemics of flu and AIDS, among others, tend to haunt and decimate many lives. This means that, at this moment in time, the QUEST has not ended.

Let us go back to London at about a century ago. In the book “The Ghost Map,” the author Steven Johnson describes, in an investigative manner, how two people changed the political policies and the life style in larger cities. Those two people were a practitioner and a priest who, despite lack of scientific data, were able to map the disease and find out how it occurred, thus saving thousands or perhaps millions of lives.

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The thorough description of how data were interpreted at a time when science was still taking baby steps is a unique learning experience.

The QUEST for an explanation and the reason why something happens is the basis of any of scientific field of study. And Dentistry is not different: thousands of scientific articles available, enclosing all specialties, prove how science works. In health sciences, variability is impressive, and the claim that the “literature” is able to explain basically all procedures might be considered true. However, the existence of a considerable number of articles does not change what really matters: THE QUEST.

The QUEST is what makes the difference among professionals of all fields and what guided the protagonists of the book cited herein. The human brain is a virtually infinite storage device (during the time we live on Earth as human beings). When we combine that with emotion and perception, in association with the instinct of learning, everything becomes more interesting and surprising. This QUEST for something new and complete is an ongoing stimulus present in the mind and life of all human beings, including the editorial board of this journal. Our idea was to merge two publications in one with a modern look, new sections, a deeper approach, with themes and subjects comprising Restorative Dentistry, Periodontology and Implantology in a unified, scientific manner that might be used as reference worldwide. That is the challenge faced by the new editorial board as regards the position adopted towards this journal.

At a time when specialists have increasingly become involved with specific fields of study, we wish Integrated Dentistry be a real reference for research and clinical practice.

The assessment of patients’ risks and real needs have been increasingly discussed within the academia, so that treatment is not performed unnecessarily, thus warning professionals on the importance of discussing treatment modalities under a scientific approach, without forgetting to approach patients as humans. In order to illustrate the consensus reached by this editorial board, we can take the overexposure and excess with which dental esthetic procedures have spread in social networks and some journals.

It is evident that Esthetics guides Restorative Dentistry and Implantology planning; however, there has been little-scientific excess by the media focusing on an extremely important issue. Whenever the anterior region of the maxilla is restored with ceramic veneers or dental implants, longevity, the goal of every treatment, is not related only to how long esthetics will remain. In addition to the esthetic and visual context, other factors, such as analysis of material, periodontal tissues and the impact of restorative treatment on a given set of teeth and the temporomandibular joint, i.e., occlusion, is also involved. Esthetic treatment in the anterior region can change one’s life; however, should it be inappropriately performed, changes might lead to irreversible iatrogenesis.

With this new approach and new challenge, and based on scientific evidence, we wish to warrant all dental procedures involved in restorative and implant sciences. We wish this journal be a reference and support for all readers involved with clinical practice, and that researchers be encouraged to share their outcomes, publishing their studies in this periodical. We also wish being able to encourage readers to understand that the QUEST for a better clinical practice never ends when decision is made on the basis of research and science: the grounds for human knowledge.