



Book Reviews

A Matter of Balance. Elaine Williams. 202 pp., illustrated, indexed. Göteborg, Sweden: AB Akademiförlaget; 1992. \$25.00.

This book provides an excellent in-depth look at the research, discovery, and application of osseointegration and discusses the involved institutions and individuals. The beginning of P-I Brånemark's professional career at Lund University in the early 1950s, and his subsequent work at Göteborg, are reviewed. Personal accounts of the people who influenced P-I Brånemark, as well as many who were influenced by him, are noted. The reader is given a rare look at the personality of Professor Brånemark, stressing the qualities that have guided him to success.

After completing microscopic studies of bone marrow, P-I Brånemark accidentally discovered the phenomenon of osseointegration. Further research and studies showed that when delicate surgical procedures are used, suitably designed titanium components inserted into bone are accepted by living tissue as part of its own structure. Brånemark's research dealt with the discovery and refinement of both the hardware and software involved in achieving osseointegration. Explanation is given why titanium was used and why the oral cavity was selected as the first site for clinical trials of osseointegration.

Brånemark's approach to research was to test his theories in the laboratory, followed by animal studies, and finally in human trials. All results were carefully controlled and attention was given to minute details in all aspects of research and development.

Brånemark faced problems early in his career trying to convince the dental community of his successes. As Brånemark was not a dentist and earlier dental implants demonstrated a variety of problems, the profession was skeptical of his initial reports. Incidents are noted on early attempts to attack not only Professor Brånemark's research but also on him personally. Through these accounts, the reader learns much about the strength and integrity of Professor Brånemark. He continued his work despite adversity. According to Brånemark, "You create your own scientific profile, either you believe in it or you don't."

Brånemark sees osseointegration as being as much philosophy as it is technique. He stresses the need to work as a team and feels that training and education of the dentist are essential. His hope is to have dentists consider implants as the first option, as opposed to the last resort, as a primary means of tooth replacement and bone preservation.

Specifics of implant materials and manufacturing are discussed to provide the reader with a comprehensive look at the entire process of producing the components for the Brånemark system.

The book also covers maxillofacial applications of osseointegrated implants and case histories involving facial prostheses. The use of osseointegrated implants for facial prosthetics has allowed many patients with facial defects to function as active and socially accepted members of society.

The use of osseointegration in orthopedic applications, such as joint and limb replacement, is also covered.

Brånemark is described as a visionary who is always looking forward. Not only has P-I Brånemark touched the lives of many patients through his determination, imagination, and energy, but he has also touched many colleagues lives as well as evidenced by the more than 40 postdoctoral theses that are a result of his research.

This book provides an excellent review of the sequence of research and development of the Brånemark system. It is recommended for all members of the dental and medical community interested in osseointegration.

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Contemporary Esthetic Dentistry. Practice Fundamentals. Bruce J. Crispin (ed). 303 pp., illustrated, indexed. Carol Stream, Illinois: Quintessence Publishing Company; 1994. \$120.00.

This textbook is oriented toward the practice of cosmetic dentistry for all dentists and covers patient communication techniques, materials utilization, clinical techniques, and new trends in ceramic technology in a well-organized manner. It is an excellent source for establishing a sound and comprehensive approach to esthetic dentistry.

The six-chapter book begins with a section on communication techniques and discusses the gathering of diagnostic information and treatment planning within the realm of patient expectations. The use of clinical photography and computer imaging techniques are included. Although briefly discussed, a detailed review of color science (which is critical to successful communication with dental laboratory technicians) is unfortunately lacking.

Nonrestorative esthetic procedures are discussed, such as bleaching, which the author stresses can be preparatory or definitive for esthetic problems. The author recommends altering tooth contours on diagnostic casts to predict optimal tooth reduction, which is an often overlooked well-established concept.

With the increasing demand for cosmetic dentistry, manufacturers have developed numerous materials for specific esthetic applications. A brief, but fair, review of the newer materials and their manipulation is presented. The superiority of ceramic systems and their recent improvements is constantly stressed.

Both direct and indirect composite restorations are presented in semi-cookbook fashion, which can be misleading. Each case presented is specifically suited to the particular technique described. It is hoped that the use of specific restorative materials will be limited to techniques developed and intended for their use alone. Indications and contraindications are mentioned for each technique described.

The last chapter concentrates on ceramic systems. Guidelines are included for satisfactory tooth preparation with