

# Facing the Future – Challenges in Oral Biology

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the board of the European Research Group for Oral Biology (ERGOB) it is a pleasure to introduce this issue of *Oral Biosciences and Medicine* that also serves as the proceeding of the fifth open ERGOB conference entitled 'Facing the Future – Challenges in Oral Biology' held in Geneva, Switzerland, in September 1-4, 2005.

This issue in particular commemorates the retirement of Professor Dr Bernhard Guggenheim, University of Zürich, who founded ERGOB in 1969. Since then, he has been the driving force of this organization. Thanks to Bernhard Guggenheim's relentless initiative ERGOB brought together selected scientists for intensive discussions of specific research topics once or twice annually for 36 years. With his invaluable contribution, ERGOB furthermore organized four outstanding large international conferences on oral biology. Bernhard Guggenheim's recognition as an innovative and thorough active researcher in the fields of oral microbiology, cariology and periodontology has played a key role for the success of ERGOB. He has published over 150 original papers in prestigious scientific journals, has served on editorial boards of several international dental journals and edited four books in the areas of cariology, sugar substitutes, periodontology and oral biology. This year Bernhard Guggenheim retires from his position as professor and director of the Institute for Oral Biology at the University of Zürich. This institution incorporated the former Institute for Oral Microbiology and General Immunology, of which he had been the chairman since 1972. For his work Bernhard Guggenheim has received numerous national and international awards, notably the European Organization for Caries Research Rolex Prize and the Research in Dental Caries Award of the International Association for Dental Research. Furthermore he has received the honorary titles Doctor Odont hc from the University of Umeå, Sweden, and Doctor Phil hc from the University of Bergen, Norway. On behalf of ERGOB and the entire dental research community we thank Bernhard Guggenheim for his excellent contribution to oral biology and hope to be able to count on his expertise for many more years to come.



Professor Director Dr Bernhard Guggenheim, Institute for Oral Biology, University of Zürich, Switzerland.

The present issue has its focus on five selected topics that all are in the front line of biological dental research and promise spectacular advances:

- Making Faces – Orofacial Evolution, Development and Tissue Regeneration
- Keeping Faces – Saving/Maintenance of Oral Mucosa and Salivary Glands
- Saving Faces – Tissue Repair and Regeneration
- Facing Facts – Making Sense of Oral Infection
- Facing Oral Diseases – Risk Factors and Markers with Diagnostic Potential

Each of the five sections is introduced by an introductory overview of the field and is then followed by discussion reviews written by leading experts.

We hope that you share our excitement and enthusiasm about the content of this issue questioning established paradigms in oral biology and agree that it contributes to a broader perspective of this field.

Andrea Mombelli, ERGOB Executive Secretary,  
Birgitte Nauntofte, Editor, ERGOB Board Member  
Jesper Reibel, Editor