At scientific meetings, speakers generally show us their outstanding clinical cases and report on successful techniques and materials. Even when they do mention complications (often using examples from other clinicians!) the cases generally end up with a successful clinical outcome. It’s the same in the scientific literature: most papers report favourable outcomes. It seems that in our field we’ve become addicted to sharing success.

There are many reasons for this: we are all proud of our best work and want to show it off. Sometimes there can be pressures from industry to avoid discussing complications. And as delegates and readers we have become accustomed to seeing beautiful cases. Nevertheless, as clinicians we all have to deal with complications and failures on a daily basis. Those complications may relate to clinical decisions, clinical implementation, or both. Faced with a world of perfection in the literature, we can sometimes end up feeling alone.

At Inspyred we believe failures and complications teach us more than the cases which proceed perfectly from start to finish. That why the theme of this issue is ‘What have you stopped doing in your daily clinical practice due to failures and complications’. If you think you’re alone in facing problems relating to rough implant surfaces; immediate implant placement; fracture of internal zirconia abutments; chipping on zirconia-based fixed reconstruction; or soft tissue management, think again. Take a look at the articles by Massimo Simion, Stefan Fickl, Tommie Van de Velde, Henning Schliephake, Christian Ramel and Vincent Fehmer.

If you feel confused about evidence-based dentistry and whether your clinical decisions should be based solely on meta-analyses, we have good news for you too. You can improve your clinical decision-making by participating in Inspyred’s first interactive article, written by Martin Brient. This explores the clinical decision-making process and gives you the opportunity to analyse two clinical cases and compare your treatment approach with your colleagues.

You may have already noticed as you hold this edition in your hands that Inspyred now has double the number of pages! This means we have been able to include even more cutting-edge content, including an interview with Christer Dahlin and our Who’s who column by Jaime Jiménez Garcia. Most importantly, Inspyred is about you, our readers, and what is relevant to you. Please email us with your feedback and suggestions, including proposals for articles for future editions.

Isabella Rocchietta and David Nisand

Submit an article to Inspyred

Inspyred welcomes articles from clinicians and researchers working in the field of implant dentistry, as well as those whose work brings a new perspective to the field. If you have an article you would like us to consider for publication, please email inspyred@eao.org.