

Commentary

Letter from the President: International collaboration

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Letter from the President

1976 promises to be an exciting and productive year for the field of oral myology. The upcoming convention in Ottawa will without a doubt provide a program that future conventions will emulate. The location of the meeting is favorable for at least three important reasons: (1) it exemplifies our desire to be international in scope; (2) it affords opportunities for the IAOM to attract more participants and members from the eastern part of the continent (our membership is inordinately "western," i.e., from Chicago to the west coast); and (3) it is close enough to areas providing bicentennial attractions to make a family trip appealing.

Another reason the year should prove memorable is that there is a healthy desire for unity being expressed by separate organizations in the field. I had a very pleasant and fruitful meeting with Mr. Daniel Garliner, president of the Myofunctional Therapy Association of America, in February. We were both enthusiastic about our wishes to unite efforts of the two organizations. We are inviting Mr. Garliner and members of his Association to submit articles to the IJOM for publication. We have extended a special invitation to members of the MTAA to attend our convention in June. We hope to have a joint committee, with members from both organizations, working to provide speakers and programs for our 1977 meeting in St. Louis.

Another important, well organized association which has demonstrated a sincere desire to combine efforts is the Academy of Oro-Facial Muscle Imbalance. This fast-growing group presently has about 150 members. Its present president, Dr. E. B. Broker, has met with me as well as with Thomas Robertson, editor of this Journal, to discuss objectives common to the two organizations. We have invited members of that Organization to submit articles to the IJOM also, and many of them are participating in our Ottawa program. I am looking forward to speaking at a meeting of their Academy in Philadelphia in May.

At our Board meeting in Chicago in February, we agreed that we must work cooperatively if we are to accomplish our goals in the profession. We especially need the support of our present membership, at our convention, in our Journal, and in our efforts to recruit and train more qualified members. As president, I feel very strongly the need to receive your suggestions. Please write if you have any ideas or criticisms. I promise a prompt response.

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President, I.A.O.M.