

# Excellence

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The ISDC Newsletter

December 1986

## Editorial

## ISDC Road Show America 1986

by Nita de Peterson

DLK

Dr F. Duret has described a photospectrometer which has been developed for dental purposes. What are your views on this method of shade analysis and do you think that the delicate and subtle nuances of natural dentition can be analysed by such a machine?

JDP

I have spoken with Dr Duret and representatives of the company that is producing the unit, and I feel they are definitely pursuing a valid course in shade determination and communication. There is more research to be done, certainly, but I am confident that this and other spectrophotometric devices will enhance our ability to monitor and to reproduce natural tooth colour. Of course, it will still require the talents of a discerning ceramist to fabricate that unit.

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Dr F. Duret has pioneered the computer image machined ceramic crown. Do you envisage dental technology being semi or completely automated in the foreseeable future.

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started in Washington DC. Tired and jet lagged we climbed out of the st of many Hotel/Airport buses to begin the ISDC Road Show which, er the next 16 days. would take us to 10 cities in California, 1986

## Perception *A series of interviews by the Editor*

## An Interview with Dr Jack Preston

*Dr Jack D. Preston is Director of Advanced Prosthodontic Education at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. His book Color Science and Dental Art (C.V. Mosby, August 1980), co-authored with Dr Stephen Bergen, is a bestseller and, together with his many published articles and lectures, has made his reputation as one of the foremost experts on Dental Ceramics, and in particular Aesthetic Consideration.*

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physical properties restrict their use, and the inability to use intrinsic colouration is a limitation but the biocompatibility is a strong advantage, as is the use of the lost wax process. Whether the price and superficial colouration process will be a deterrent to widespread use remains to be seen.

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**As [Harrington] Professor of Esthetic Dentistry at the University of Southern California [USC], can you tell our readers something of your work at USC and if you are conducting research into any areas of interest to technicians?**

**JDP**

The University of Southern California is, to my knowledge, the only school that has Esthetic Dentistry as a core course in the curriculum. We teach the principles of esthetics to the sophomores just before they enter the clinic. We also have a selective course in the senior year that has proven very popular. We have been conducting some exciting research into the definition of correlation between different elements of the esthetic complex. The project is in its very early stages, but has shown great potential.

**DLK**

**Because I feel it is so important, I always ask the question, "How do you think the dentist/technician relationship can be improved?"**

**JDP**

David, I think that the mutual respect between dentists and technicians is developed by communication and understanding. Unfortunately, there is frequently a lack of knowledge about what each

member of this team does, and sometimes animosity is developed as a defence mechanism. Education — both in technical schools and in dental schools — can help, but there must be an initial desire for excellence and improvement on the part of both parties, for respect to grow. Each should be able to define problems and contribute to solutions and neither is inherently correct. The profession is practised at so many levels, that a simple answer to your question does not address all the issues. I am certain you could develop a lengthy edition of this publication just on this one question.

**DLK**

**As a Fellow of the ISDC, how do you see the future role of the Society?**

**JDP**

The ISDC will develop a higher profile and become more of a teaching organization. We must become a more tightly knit group, with a greater extension and development of national and regional chapters. Eventually, there should be sponsored meetings featuring a different type of programme — more participation courses, closer exposure to those who have demonstrated unique talent. Eventually, I would hope the ISDC would have a major influence on manufacturers, governmental bodies, and the education system, raising standards and promoting better dentistry. This takes time, dedication and financial support. The group is in its infancy, but I have confidence in its ability to mature.

**DLK**

**I have enjoyed our interview and I know our readers will appreciate your answers. Thank you, Dr Preston, for sharing your knowledge with us.**

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