

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

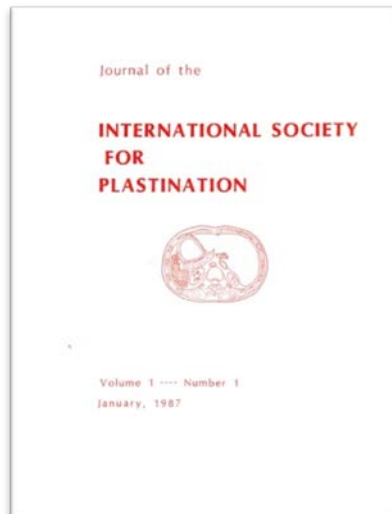


Philip J. Addis, MSc, FIBMS

Dear Readers,

I feel hugely honoured to be appointed Editor of the Journal of Plastination. Carlos Baptista has been an inspirational interim editor for the last couple of years, and was responsible for the relaunch (one could almost say rebirth!) of the new-look Journal in 2010. I am sure I speak for the membership as a whole when I say that huge thanks are due to him for the healthy state of the Journal at present. I have had the pleasure working first with Ming Zhang, then with Carlos and Selcuk Tunali, since 2010 when the former 'Journal of the International Society for Plastination' morphed (almost!) seamlessly into the Journal of Plastination. It may be worth remembering a comment from Craig Goodmurphy at the 15th Biennial Business Meeting of the International Society for Plastination, held in Honolulu in July 2010. Craig suggested that "the objective of the Journal of Plastination be expanded to provide a medium for the publication of scientific papers dealing with all aspects of preservation of biological specimens including plastination, sectional anatomy and other anatomical techniques". This was endorsed by many other members at the meeting, and is a sentiment I share as we look forward to the challenges ahead.

The original journal was born in 1987, under the editorship of Harmon Bickley (the cover page of the first issue is shown below). The first article to be published in the new Journal of the International Society for Plastination was by Karine Oostrom from Utrecht in The Netherlands: "Fixation of Tissue for Plastination: general principles". The article goes on to discuss different methods of fixation, color preservation, color injection, health hazards and employee safety; it lists the PPE worn in Heidelberg – "rubber gloves, plastic aprons and goggles or gas masks" and finishes with this comment: "Those of you who attended the Third International Conference on Plastination in San Antonio will certainly recall the slide in which three young ladies modeled these fashionable accessories, and nothing else. The editor was adamant that we omit this illustration, however it would have served to show that even fixation can be fun." It is nice to see that high editorial standards were set right from the start!



The first issue also contained a paper co-authored by Gunther von Hagens (Guhr et al., "Complete Examination of Mastectomy Specimens Using Sheet Plastination With Epoxy Resin"). Nearly thirty years later the ISP's links with the von Hagens dynasty are still strong, and we are pleased to publish in this issue an abstract from his son, Rurik, who gave an excellent presentation at the 17th International Conference on Plastination in St. Petersburg earlier this year.

Other notable authors from 1987 include Bob Henry, whose first paper in a long line

of distinguished contributions came in Volume 1, issue 2: "Plastination of an Integral Heart-Lung Specimen"; two years later, Volume 3 saw two papers from the current President of the ISP, Carlos Baptista: "Plastination of the Heart: Preparation for the study of the cardiac valves", and "Plastination of the Wrist: Potential Uses in Education And Clinical Medicine".

Enough of the past – what of the future? We intend to continue the tradition of bringing out two issues each year, and this issue will be swiftly followed by Volume 26 no. 2, which will include as many papers as possible from the presentations given in St. Petersburg, as well as other papers on aspects of plastination and tissue preservation. My goal is for The Journal of Plastination to have its impact factor listed, and for it to be indexed to PubMed. This cannot be achieved without more high-quality submissions from you, the members of the ISP, so please consider publishing your papers here first. For 2015, we are planning to bring out an updated version of the "cookbook", Volume 22 (2007) – eight years on we will be asking the authors of those papers to revise and update their manuscripts so we can bring out a new, definitive practical guide to plastination in all its forms.

With best wishes,



Phil Adds
Editor, The Journal of Plastination