

## Editorial

The beginning of the next academic year coincides with the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Degree course in Dentistry in Italy.

In 1980, a decree signed by the President of the Italian Republic, on. Sandro Pertini, founded this degree course in the Faculty of Medicine, thereby respecting a European Community directive that required the first graduates in Dentistry by 1984. For this reason, the first two years of this new course were activated simultaneously, reserving the 80% of the second year places to the students of Medicine who had already completed the exams of their first academic year and the 20% to the graduates in Medicine .

A very long way has gone through since those days, when dental students were called "odonto-schrumpf". Moreover to establish a European level core curriculum, both in the scientific and professional disciplines, programmes enhanced along the years giving higher and higher attention to practice and technical knowledge, that are necessary to a high quality Dentistry.

The experience of these 30 years, produced an enhancement of the course from the original five-years course to the current six-years course, allowing now to the graduates in Dentistry to acquire the knowledge and experience needed for their profession.

The cornerstone of this enhancement is founded especially upon a very intense research, in particular about materials and techniques. This transformation encountered and satisfied the increasing requests of the Italian population of high quality dental treatments.

Our discipline during these last 30 years had a great development, preparing the graduates to satisfy the requests of the patients of high quality Dentistry and producing researchers and experts internationally renowned, who spread Italian dental knowledge throughout the world.

Prof. Maurizio Ripari