

The sheer volume of scientific data published each year in specialist journals can make it difficult for non-specialist dentists to identify and evaluate the best scientific evidence available and use it as a basis for making decisions. Indeed, it is not always easy to distinguish between hi-tech experimental protocols, applicable to a limited number of cases and still lacking adequate long-term follow-ups, and validated procedures that can be used successfully and safely in daily practice.

To overcome this difficulty and arrive at diagnostic and therapeutic certainties on which to base clinical decisions, a scientific publication should include, alongside reports on the most advanced experimental research, also case series and insights into traditional methods, which tend to be overlooked in favour of studies (such as ones on animal models) that are certainly more valuable in scientific terms but do not have immediate practical application.

The aim of a journal like *Annali di Stomatologia* is not only to provide essential scientific updating, publishing the results of the most advanced studies in all the fields of dentistry, but also to promote overall professional growth, rather than just the enhancement of expertise in very specific sectors and specialties. Similarly, the publication of case studies, case reports and technical notes can help to further a dentist's professional development, providing a means of checking the appropriateness of his clinical conduct and of verifying results achieved using particular material or method.

Susanna Annibali
Editor in Chief