

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oral medicine in academia



To the Editor:

Scully et al. provided a broad overview of the past, current, and future status of oral medicine (OM) in their recently published article “Oral medicine (stomatology) across the globe: Birth, growth, and future.”¹ The international representation of authorship validates the important role of OM in clinical practice, education, and research globally and its vital role in health care throughout the world.

The article is wide ranging in scope, and an aspect of OM that is not directly highlighted is the contribution of OM-trained individuals in academic institutions. The unique nature of oral medicine encourages individuals who train in this specialty to develop both cognitive and noncognitive skills that are highly sought after in academia, often at the highest levels of executive decision making at their specific institutions. Preliminary data from a current survey-based research study have revealed several OM-trained individuals have served in the role of dean (appointed, interim, acting), associate dean (academic affairs, oral medical sciences, hospital affairs), and assistant dean (admissions, graduate dental education) at their respective institutions, both in the United States and throughout the world (unpublished data).

In addition, OM-trained individuals are recognized for their teaching excellence at both the predoctoral and postdoctoral levels. Evidence supporting this has been obtained from the preliminary results of the previously mentioned study, as OM-trained individuals have received such prestigious, university-wide educational awards in the United States, such as the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Judson C. Hickey Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Master Educator Award from the Stuart D. Cook Master Educators Guild Center for Teaching Excellence (unpublished data).

The influence of OM-trained individuals in these capacities should be recognized as valuable contributions to furthering the missions of academic institutions, from both administrative and educational perspectives, and should be included in any narrative discussing the significance and breadth of oral medicine.

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REFERENCE

1. Scully C, Miller CS, Aguirre Urizar JM, et al. Oral medicine (stomatology) across the globe: birth, growth, and future. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol*. 2016;121:149-157.e5.

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In reply:

Drs. Eric T. Stoopler and Thomas P. Sollecito note quite correctly that although our paper provided a broad overview of the past, current, and future status of oral medicine in the recently published article “Oral medicine (stomatology) across the globe: Birth, growth, and future,”¹ the contributions of oral medicine-trained individuals in academic institutions, an important aspect of oral medicine, were not directly highlighted. We agree with them entirely and would also point out that for a number of practical reasons, we were also unable to include other important aspects, such as the huge contribution of those working in oral medicine to patient care and to the world scientific literature.

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REFERENCE

1. Scully C, Miller CS, Aguirre Urizar JM, et al. Oral medicine (stomatology) across the globe: birth, growth and future. *Oral Med Oral Surg Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod*. 2016;121:149-157.e5.

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Comments on “Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) sialography—an adjunct to salivary gland ultrasonography in the evaluation of recurrent salivary gland swelling”



To the Editor:

We would like to congratulate Tobias Kroll et al. for their original article titled “Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) sialography—an adjunct to salivary gland ultrasonography in the evaluation of recurrent salivary gland swelling.”¹ The article was truly