

EDITORIAL

A.R. Samsudin

Dean

School of Dental Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia,
16150 Kubang Kerian

The orofacial complex is biologically an organ system of its own and working in an integrated manner to provide the individual with the function of mastication, swallowing, breathing, speech and not forgetting the special organs of smell, taste and vision.

From the anatomical point, it is intimately associated with the brain, neck, cervical spine and thoracic inlet. Research in orofacial complex includes investigation of growth and development, the various functional activities which varies throughout age from intra-uterine life to early infancy where sucking and breathing are the main activities and efficient masticatory system in early childhood; and mature face with acceptable aesthetic and other appropriate social and community needs which has to be met.

Thus, studies of orofacial complex is definitely multidisciplinary involving genetic, cellular and molecular biology, biomechanic, orofacial physiology that will demand the whole spectrum of life sciences and physical sciences put together. Further studies involving electromyography, digital imaging, production of sound and its articulation within the oral cavity and association of all these with the whole general physiology of the body made orofacial sciences a great challenge to clinicians, scientists and researchers.

Almost every systemic disease in the body may affect the orofacial complex, thus making the orofacial region a mirror of systemic pathology. This phenomenon has only been recognized today because of molecular understanding of diseases. All these realization will now mean that dentists, doctors, molecular biologists, engineers, social scientists, psychologists, mathematicians, computer programmers, play important role in the development of orofacial sciences research.

The need of such endeavour will mean that dental and medical education has to be revisited to ensure a much more thorough understanding of the orofacial complex for oral physicians who are treating problems involving these structures. A platform for the meeting of these multidisciplinary experts need to be built and the launching and publication of this journal is very timely in innovating this forum. I must congratulate the chief editor and the editorial board members for the exhaustive effort done to make this publication a reality. This will ensure that we are able to produce the best doctors for tomorrow to manage orofacial diseases based on evidence-based orofacial sciences that will be depicted by this journal.