2012 – A quarter century for VCOT

The publication of this first issue of the Journal in 2012 is cause for celebration because it marks the beginning of our 25th volume. During the course of nearly one quarter of a century, VCOT has continued to grow and evolve. We plan to recognise this progress with several special features in subsequent issues during this year.

In 2011 there were 187 manuscripts submitted for publication, whereas 114 were submitted in 2007. During this same period, the impact factor for VCOT has increased from 0.777 in 2007 to 1.064 in 2011, and the number of issues per year has grown from four to six. This growth in both volume and standard is due largely to the support that the journal has received from our authors, board of reviewers and publisher, as well as the societies that adopted us as their official journal. I am sincerely grateful to everyone who has contributed to this success.

In the current issue of the journal, our featured cover image depicting some brilliant non-decalcified ground sections is from the study of cemented total knee replacement implants in dogs (1). Production of non-decalcified bone sections is one of the cornerstone techniques for microscopic assessment of bone morphology in studying bone development, remodelling and repair. These are difficult and tedious to produce, but they are still critical to the study of implants because micro-computed tomography imaging, which is corrupted by the presence of the implant, cannot yet fully replace histology. Although total knee replacement in the dog has been under investigation for several decades, most of this research has been directed at the development of knee joint replacement in humans (2). It is very gratifying to see that this research has now been extended into the development of clinical application of joint replacement for dogs with advance osteoarthritis of the stifle joint. However, further investigation will be needed to refine and establish this procedure to the same level of success as total hip replacement in the dog. We look forward to reading about more research from investigators working on this topic in the future.

I hope that you find interesting and new information in the papers published in this issue of the Journal.

Best wishes for the coming year.

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References

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2. Turner TM, Urban RM, Sumner DR, et al. Bone ingrowth into the tibial component of a canine total condylar knee replacement prosthesis. J Orthop Res 1989; 7: 893–901.

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