Dear Reader,

_The success of modern endodontic treatment_ can largely be attributed to the work of Dr Herbert Schilder. This is not because he pioneered 3-D obturation with warm gutta-percha, not because he defined the first mechanical and biological objectives for shaping and cleaning a root-canal system, not because he stood by his principles in the face of criticism, but because he _raised the bar_ for endodontic success to a new level. Numerous gifted educators and clinicians have followed and furthered Dr Schilder’s principles and techniques. In fact, in this edition of _roots_, two contributing authors were trained by Dr Schilder.

Historically, endodontic treatment has been considered the last option for saving a tooth prior to extraction. The option of endodontic treatment was compared to that of not having a tooth, which was an easy decision to make. Presently, dental implants are the comparative treatment against which endodontic success is measured. Many believe, and I agree, that this comparison has also raised the bar for endodontic treatment success to a new level.

Raising the level of endodontic treatment begins with knowing when to treat a compromised case and when not to treat a hopeless case. Correctly determining this improves the success of endodontic treatment. Utilising technology such as cone-beam imaging gives clinicians diagnostic information about the aetiology of endodontic pathology that is critical to determining whether a case can be treated endodontically. Treating complicated cases with advanced micro-surgical endodontic treatment is also required to improve the success of endodontic treatment. It is essential that current and future generations of endodontic clinicians continue to practise and improve micro-surgical endodontic treatment.

I am honoured to contribute to this edition of _roots_. As you will see in the following articles, _roots_ has become a premier international endodontic publication. It offers a forum for renowned clinicians and educators to share their knowledge and expertise with colleagues in all fields of dentistry. I hope you will enjoy this issue of _roots_ as much as I did.

Sincerely yours,

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