Preface

Gender and Diversity in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Oral and maxillofacial surgery emerged as a specialty in the first decade of the twentieth century and, sparked by scientific and technological developments, while being buffeted by social, economic, and political forces, has followed a winding path to its current robust status. Despite the specialty’s many successes, diversity concerns have remained a perennial challenge. Ingrained traditions within professional education continue to inhibit progress toward equality among ethnic groups, women, LGBTQ, and people with disabilities. In this issue, authors explore the many dimensions of the problem and offer suggestions to aid in improving gender and diversity inclusion within the specialty.

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We dedicate this issue to Lucy Hobbs Taylor, the first woman in the world to receive a doctorate in dentistry. Despite rejections and setbacks, she completed her doctorate in dentistry in 1866 and practiced dentistry until her death in 1910. Her determination continues to be inspirational to us in challenging the gender and minority inequities in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

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