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The International Journal of Sports Dentistry and Performance Science

**Editorial Message**

# Message from Global Executive Editor

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# A Foreword from the Global Executive Editor

It is with deep gratitude and a profound sense of shared purpose that I welcome readers, contributors, and colleagues to the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Sports Dentistry and Performance Science* (IJSDPS). The launch of this journal marks more than the appearance of a new title on the academic landscape — it represents a coming-of-age for a discipline whose time has unmistakably arrived.

For decades, sports dentistry has developed quietly at the intersection of clinical care, prevention, and athletic performance. Custom-fitted mouthguards and the management of orofacial trauma; the recognition of bruxism and temporomandibular dysfunction in elite athletes; the role of airway and sleep in recovery and cognition; the impact of oral inflammation on systemic readiness — each of these threads grew from individual research groups, dedicated national societies, and the persistence of clinicians who saw what others overlooked: that the mouth is not separate from the athlete, and the athlete is not separate from their oral health.

What has been missing, until now, is a truly independent, international platform where these threads can be woven together — a place where evidence from Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Oceania can meet on equal footing; where established knowledge engages with emerging innovation; and where no single national tradition or commercial interest defines the conversation. The IJSDPS is conceived precisely to fill this space.

The scope of our journal is deliberately broad. Sports dentistry today extends far beyond the chairside fitting of a mouthguard. It engages with biomechanics and impact science, with respiratory physiology and airway management, with recovery and sleep, with concussion research, with materials science and digital workflows,

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with paediatric and parasport considerations, and with the ethical and policy questions that accompany the care of athletes at every level — from the schoolyard pitch to the Olympic podium and the professional arena. We invite contributions across this entire continuum, and we welcome with equal warmth the voices of dentists, physicians, physiotherapists, sports scientists, engineers, coaches, and the athletes themselves.

I write these lines not only as Global Executive Editor of the IJSDPS, but also as Vice President of the European Association for Sports Dentistry (EA4SD), Founding and Honorary President of the German Society of Sports Dentistry (DGSZM), Vice President of the Austrian Society of Sports Dentistry (ÖGSZM) and Chief Strategy Officer of the SBMC Academy in Switzerland. From each of these vantage points, the same conviction has emerged: our discipline can only fulfil its promise to athletes if we move beyond institutional borders. National and regional societies have done — and will continue to do — extraordinary work. But the questions our patients put to us each day, about safety, about performance, about long-term health, do not respect borders, and neither should our science.

It is in this spirit that the IJSDPS positions itself as neutral, inclusive, and independent. The journal is not the instrument of any society or sponsor. It is, rather, a common table to which every serious contributor is invited. Our adherence to COPE and ICMJE standards, our commitment to double-blind peer review, and our open-access model are not bureaucratic features. They are ethical commitments — to authors, to readers, and above all to the athletes whose wellbeing our work ultimately serves.

To the authors who have entrusted us with their work in this first issue, I extend my sincere thanks. To the reviewers and editorial colleagues who have laboured carefully and often invisibly behind the scenes, your contribution is the foundation upon which everything else stands. And to our readers — whether you are a clinician searching for evidence to guide tomorrow's appointment, a researcher considering where to submit your next manuscript, or simply someone curious about a field that quietly safeguards careers and protects health — I hope you find here a journal that speaks meaningfully to your needs and invites your engagement.

**Prevention is performance. Oral health is athlete health.** With this inaugural issue, we begin a journey that I am confident will deepen, broaden, and unite our discipline for many years to come.

With warm regards and collegial greetings from Europe to colleagues across the world,



**Stavros Avgerinos**