



Preface  
Emerging biomaterials and tissue engineering



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In the future, the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery will be shaped by the tools we are given. The emerging fields of tissue engineering and biomaterials are truly exciting. Products of the future, including those from genetically engineered proteins all the way to tissue-engineered organs, are and will be in clinical trials in the very near future. Our specialty will benefit from the development of many of these biomaterials, and our future will be shaped by their use. Our patients will benefit from us understanding and critically evaluating new products as they are brought to market. This issue contains articles authored by a diverse group of scientists and clinicians representing a variety of fields. The articles have all been written by authors with great insight into their particular topic. They are written to bring to light the present state of the art, with emphasis on future development of products in that arena. The use of

emerging biomaterials and tissue-engineered approaches to surgical treatment is exciting and will help the advance of oral and maxillofacial surgery. The future is bright.

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