Regardless of human limitations, it is our honorable duty to pursue a path of excellence in aesthetic dentistry. In the words of Dr. Harold Shavell: “Excellence and creativity are arts won by motivation, training, and habituation.” In my own interpretation, motivation is the trigger of all achievements in life. Envisioning the ultimate objectives as if they had already become reality is the key point. Training encompasses incorporation of the right philosophic attitudes and technical aptitudes through quality seminars, presented by unselfish teachers. Habitation is the repeated effort to learn from one’s previous results. Repeatedly practicing new concepts, while remaining observant of nature’s marvels, sharpens our perception, enhances our skills, and ultimately rewards us with a higher level of professional achievement. However, we must always retain the thought and attitude that performing excellent dental work must not be an end in itself. The relevance of the knowledge and skills we have acquired is none other than mastering daily challenges to see the patients through their physical and emotional needs.

It is with this focus on the interrelation between nature and aesthetic dentistry that the September 1997 issue is introduced. Drs. Konrad H. Meyenberg and Marco J. Imoberdorf, of Switzerland, pay a genuine tribute to nature’s triad in their elucidating article. Nature’s economy, strength, and beauty are rightfully profiled by the numerous conservative, adhesive, and highly aesthetic treatment modalities, presented with well-defined therapeutic indications. Drs. Nitzan Bichacho and Cobi J. Landsberg, of Israel, delineate a pathway for achieving an enhanced aesthetic implant/soft tissue configuration that more closely resembles those found in natural gingival contours. Dr. William H. Liebenberg, of Canada, reinstates the natural features by economically rebonding the tooth fragment while preserving the remaining sound structure. Representing Italy, Drs. Vanini, De Simone, and Tammaro introduce an elaborate protocol for economic restoration of fractured anterior dentition where fragment reattachment is not practical.

Finally, as the Guest Editor, I present an article which acknowledges nature’s economy by the noninvasiveness of the surgical procedure. As a common motif with other articles in this issue, adhesion sets the stage for strength as well as for economy. Implementation of the composite layering technique, according to nature’s own patterns, brings forth ultimate beauty.