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Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first issue of the new year. In this issue, reviews of new developments in the field of dentistry and original researches are included. One of our most important goals is to mediate appropriately the sharing of knowledge and experience among dental professionals, researchers and academicians. In this issue, we share with you five articles covering various topics in dentistry.

The first article of our journal, “Comparing haptic enhanced virtual reality simulation to plastic manikin local anesthesia training: an in-situ evaluation” is an original article and the authors aimed to evaluate a custom haptic-enhanced VR system (H-VRLA). The second article “Development of a new teaching tool for visualizing invisible tips by adjusting full dentures” is an original article. This study investigated the training effects of using pressure sensors on force magnitude control during the dental procedure. The third article is a study titled “Comparative evaluation of the performance of artificial intelligence-supported chatbots in answering basic science questions on the dental specialty exam.” The study examines whether the chatbots’ knowledge level is consistent with the exam standards according to the years the exams were held and the subjects covered by comparing the accuracy rates of the answers given by different chatbot models. The fourth article “Alkaside restorative materials in dentistry: a bibliometric analysis from 2020 to 2025” is an original article. According to the authors, this study provides the first bibliometric overview of alkaside research in dentistry, highlighting emerging research trends, geographical distribution, and scientific impact, and provides a valuable reference for future research. Finally, the fifth article “Oral pigmentations” is a review. It is aimed to contribute to the clinical diagnosis and differential diagnosis processes of various oral and particularly gingival pigmentations encountered by clinicians.

I would like to thank the authors, reviewers, editorial team and publisher for their hard work and dedication in bringing this issue to fruition. We look forward to providing you with the latest insights and developments in dentistry, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Elif Pınar BAKIR, PhD

Editor-in-Chief

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