

Editor's Corner

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In preparation for this issue, we extended an invitation to our supplier community to contribute material that was, for the first time, focused upon a designated editorial theme.

By inviting contributions within the *Surface Engineering Zone*, we attempted to open the door to elicit commentary from the largest possible number of suppliers that provide services in this arena. For a frame of reference, we employ the term *Surface Engineering* to encompass virtually any type of capability, process or technology that alters, modifies or treats the surface layer of implants or instruments.

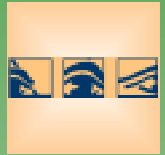
Although we will establish a theme for each issue, it remains our intention that every issue remain open to acceptance of all contributions that have applicability to a Zone of interest to our readership. As an example, in addition to the eight *Surface Engineering* contributions presented herein, one *Materials Science* contribution is also included.

Similarly, although the next issue's editorial theme is *Cutting Tools* (surgical instruments including drill bits, blades, burs, broaches, planers, reamers, rasps, rotary tools, saws, etc.), there will again be contributions within the *Surface Engineering Zone* from Suppliers who offer 'coating' services but were unable to submit their material in time for inclusion in this issue.

This exemplifies our commitment to ensure that each issue provides a composite of presentations spanning multiple Zones. Currently, the following topics are under consideration as candidates for designation as top-level Zones: Materials Science, Surface Engineering, Casting/Forging, Implant Manufacture, Instrument Manufacture, Regulations/Standards, and Materials/Device Testing.

Please feel free to suggest other topics for similar consideration. We welcome your feedback, invite your perspective, and await your suggestions.

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