



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING

Completely Different...

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GUEST EDITOR

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My first idea for a women's health issue concerned the obvious big subjects: breast health and perinatal health. These turned out to be rich enough to have a volume dedicated to each. So to find topics of a broader range, I started thinking about what subjects don't usually get covered. What areas are gender-specific that also impact our personal and professional lives daily? I contacted my friend, Linda Keating, at the American Dental Association, and was impressed once again with how much she knew and how many contacts she has.

This issue has four articles dealing with aspects of women's health: gender-specific expressions of cardiovascular disease; two pieces on substance abuse in women, one focusing on adolescents and young adults, and the second on identification and intervention for older women; and, finally, gender-specific ergonomics in the dental office.

At first glance, the target audience for this issue might appear to be women dentists; however, few of our offices are limited to only one gender or age group. Our ability to sensitively relate to all our patients requires that we stay informed on health issues that affect the whole population — young and old, male and female.

It was an honor serving as guest editor for the first issue of

the *Journal* dedicated to women's health. The authors have increased my understanding of the topics and the experience has taught me humility. It is a daunting task putting together just one issue of the *Journal of the California Dental Association*. Thanks to the authors for their interesting and informative communications; to Patty Reyes, assistant editor, for her calm reassurance and for making it all work; and to Dr. Alan Felsenfeld for taking a chance on a theme that expands the *Journal's* horizons. ■■■■