At the turn of the 20th century, there were 3 organizations in the United States devoted to the discipline of prosthetic dentistry: the Academy of Denture Prosthetics (later named the Academy of Prosthodontics) founded in 1918, the American Denture Society (later named the American Prosthodontic Society) founded in 1928, and the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontists (later named the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics) founded in 1929. These organizations met regularly, usually conducting annual meetings, to present papers and to share knowledge, ideas and information related to prosthetic dentistry. As the years went by, the leadership of each organization believed there was a need for a journal in which to publish the papers that were presented at the annual meetings otherwise information would be lost. Each organization had their own publications committee charged with the goal of one day producing a printed journal.

From the archives of the Academy of Prosthodontics, it appears that in 1949, the Fellows of the Academy of Denture Prosthetics decided to move forward with a printed journal. The Publications Committee of the Academy of Denture Prosthetics (AP) led by Dr Louis S. Block (Fig. 1) met with officers of the C.V. Mosby Company in Chicago on February 6, 1950. In a memo dated February 11, 1950, presumably from Dr Block reporting back to the Executive Council of the Academy of Denture Prosthetics (AP) the memo states, “The purpose of this meeting was to explain to the members of the Mosby Company the need for a magazine (sic) devoted exclusively to the subject of denture prostheses, wherein the papers of the various denture groups would find expression.” It was agreed at this meeting that the Academy of Denture Prosthetics (AP), the American Denture Society (APS), and the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontists (PCSP) would be interested in supporting such a journal.

It is unclear as to exactly what took place in the few days following Dr Block’s meeting with the Mosby Company on February 6, 1950, but Dr Block did have a conversation or conversations with Dr Thomas Shanahan, Chair of the Publications Committee of the American Denture Society (APS) and William Terrell, President of the American Denture Society (APS) immediately following a report that was made at the Annual Meeting of the American Denture Society (APS) on February 20, 1950. The following day, February 21, 1950 a letter was written by Dr Block to the president of the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontists (PCSP) informing him of the decision to move ahead with the journal.

In the months that followed, the three organizations would become known as the Founding Organizations and two entities were registered in the State of Kentucky. One, the Editorial Council of The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry Incorporated, would be registered as a not for profit organization which would own The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry. Secondly, the Editorial Council for The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry would be the Board of Directors which would administrate and govern the affairs of Journal. The first meeting of this board, the Editorial Council for the JPD, occurred in Milwaukee on April 29, 1950. This original Editorial Council consisted of 9 members, with Louis Block as chair and eight other members: Emil H. Bollwerk, George A. Hughes, Thomas E. J. Shanahan, W. Les Warburton, Emmett Beckley, Roland D. Fisher, Raymond J. Nagle, and Claude J. Stansbery. What is interesting as a sidenote, is that the first editor, Carl Boucher, and council members Stansbery, Nagle, Warburton, Fisher and Hughes all became presidents of the Academy of Denture Prosthetics (AP) at one time or another. Louis Block was a president of the American Denture Society (APS) and Fisher and Hughes were presidents of the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontists (PCSP).

This original Editorial Council was charged with negotiating a contract with the Mosby Company, and such a contract was presented to the officers of the Founding Organizations on October 20, 1950. With the signing of the
contract by the presidents and secretaries of the three Founding Organizations, Dr Block wired a Western Union Telegram (Fig. 2) to Joel Rogers, Publisher, informing him that the contract was duly executed.

On October 27, 1950 at the Seaside Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey Dr Block called the meeting of the Editorial Council to order. A motion was made and seconded that the Editorial Council officially approve the publication of *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*. The motion was unanimously approved. The first issue of *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* was published as the January - March 1951 issue. To date there have been four chairs of the Editorial Council for *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*. Dr Louis Block served as chair of the Editorial Council for *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* from its inception until 1987. Dr Kenneth Adisman served as chair from 1988 until 1997, Dr Brien Lang served as chair from 1998 to 2010 and Dr Baldwin Marchack served as chair from 2011 to 2018 (Fig. 3). The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry is celebrating 68 years of documenting the scientific and clinical advancements in prosthetic dentistry. In doing so, it has grown from a journal founded by three sponsoring organizations to a journal representing 27 domestic and international sponsoring organizations and one that is read around the world.

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