Foreword

It is really an honour and a great pleasure for me to write a foreword to this book on “Informatics in Oral Medicine”. Although, my specialty is not in the field of oral medicine, dental informatics has always been my primary interest along with clinical operative dentistry and research. My involvement in dental informatics, for almost 3 decades, made me realize that oral medicine, clinical dentistry and dental research, are best served by informatics especially when public oral health and care is the target. Informatics has unlimited ways to support and assist all branches of dentistry and many are still unknown to the majority of the dental clinicians or even researchers. However, I must say that many applications have not yet been transformed from a valuable research tool to a practical tool for the everyday clinical practice.

This book covers a wide range of applications in oral medicine and describes through applied research projects, important methods like, 3D radiographic imaging, 2D and 3D finite element analysis, proteomic analysis, genomic analysis, oral human microbiom, computational biomodeling, molecular modeling, and computational biochemistry and biophysics. All the above methods and many others are today’s most advanced applications in clinical and diagnostic technologies, and for this reason, this book will stimulate the curiosity and interest of scientists in informatics to work in collaboration with oral medicine scientists for the benefit of public’s health care.

The editor of this book, Dr. Andriani Daskalaki is well known to me as a persistent, hard working and knowledgeable researcher, expert in the field of bioinformatics with a mind wide open to foresee the importance and necessity of books in dental and oral informatics. This alone, guarantees that this book will become soon a reference and its interesting chapters will offer valuable assistance to those who are seeking answers on how to use applications of informatics in oral medicine and dentistry for solving similar practical problems.

Most of the writers are experienced researchers and clinicians with a unique involvement in applied informatics for oral medicine, oral surgery, dentofacial orthopaedics, molecular biology, periodontology or cariology. Their knowledge has been transformed into a valuable text in this book for all readers, clinicians or researchers, not only in the field of dental sciences but in medical and basic sciences as well. For these reasons I do recommend this book as a valuable tool in oral informatics and I hope all contributors to this publication to continue to publicize their expert knowledge in this fast growing and evolving science that affect us all.

P. E. Lagouvardos  
Associate Professor  
Course Director in Dental Informatics  
Dental School, University of Athens, Greece
Panagiotis E. Lagouvardos graduated in 1974 from the dental school of Athens, and received his Doctor degree from the same school in 1985. Is an Associate Professor in Operative Dentistry at the dental school of the University of Athens, director of the preclinical education for undergraduate students in Operative Dentistry, and course director in Dental Informatics for dental students. Is the author of a book in “Dental Informatics”, the editor in chief of the “Hellenic Dental Journal” and advisor to the Hellenic Dental Association in issues related to Dental Informatics.