

Foreword

A note from the publisher

It would be inappropriate for the first issue of 2008 to be published without our expressing our gratitude for all Brian Burt has done for the journal and our welcome to John Spencer on his assumption of the editorship.

Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology is noted for the quality of its content. It is one of those journals that define a field, the importance of which is being recognised more and more as being central to oral health. The high standards do not depend on the publisher though we can help with the infrastructure. They depend on the hard work and the discrimination in selection shown by Brian and the team he has led. We trust in his continued support for the journal which he has served so well.

We also know that John will continue in the tradition. He has worked with Brian for some time and we are aware from our interactions with both of them that there is a shared recognition of how a good journal should be edited. We are grateful to Brian for handing over to John and for John for being willing to take over a job that is so important to us and to the community served by the journal.

Anthony Watkinson
Publisher

Wiley-Blackwell Dentistry

Thomas Trier-Mork
Journal Publishing Manager
Wiley-Blackwell Dentistry

Editorial

A salute to Brian Burt

This issue of *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* marks a change in the editor. Brian Burt has retired as editor after eleven years. These years were preceded by a further eight years as associate editor, and a considerably longer period as a contributing author to the journal.

Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology has long been highly regarded. However, the last eleven years have seen it emerge as the pre-eminent forum for the transfer of scientifically based information on community dentistry. Authors, reviewers and readers will all be aware of the journal's fundamental role in the disciplines of oral epidemiology, dental health services research and the social and behavioural sciences in dentistry. What is possibly less dwelt upon is the increasing Impact Factor enjoyed by the journal and its climb up the Impact Factor ranking

for dental journals. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* enjoys a wide distribution, tremendous electronic availability and access, and strong user recognition of its importance in bringing new research to the attention of the research community, dental profession and community, ultimately to the benefit of all.

Jens Pindborg as the founder and first editor set the journal on this path. Ole Fejerskov continued the process. Fejerskov began the transition from descriptive to analytical oral epidemiology and research which linked the distribution of oral disease with biological, social or behavioural variables which extended our understanding of the disease process and the opportunities to intervene. The journal also gave considerable importance to reflecting issues pertinent to different parts of the world, extending its international appeal.

Brian Burt continued in these directions at a great pace. He has pursued the publication

of methodologically detailed scientific research which presents new findings. Innovative approaches with important implications for oral health and dental care have been promoted. Needless repetition and reports with only marginal application to dentistry have been gently discouraged. In addition, thoughtful provocative, commentaries and reviews have been added to the mix of manuscripts carried by the journal. Some of these have become legendary for the subsequent change in our thinking and their rate of citation.

A subtle shift in emphasis in the manuscripts published has also occurred. Where appropriate, Burt gave support to manuscripts focussed on program planning, implementation and evaluation. This reflected the journals commitment to community dentistry and transfer of the science carried in the journal into practice.

During Brian Burt's editorship the publisher of the journal changed. Munksgaard was taken over by Blackwell Publishing. To the reader the change was seamless, again to the credit of Brian Burt. The journal also made timely moves from a hard copy to electronic submission and finally into Manuscript Central as an online submission site and manuscript management system.

Collectively Brian Burt's leadership on scientific directions and his willingness to embrace change in the process of publishing the journal has positioned *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* as the

high quality, influential, international journal for its related disciplines.

The journal's immediate challenges are those that come with these successes. Manuscript submissions continue to increase in number to over 320 manuscripts a year and the queue for publication of accepted manuscripts increases. In order to avoid unacceptable delays from submission to acceptance to publication there are stricter guidelines on the need for manuscripts to be highly analytical in approach and to present important new findings. This inevitably causes concern for some authors whose subject matter may seem to bear the brunt of these realities.

For the immediate future I hope for the journal to continue as it has under the guidance of Brian Burt. As the new editor I will not be rushing into changes. However, I would welcome your comments or any ideas that can assist me in maintaining *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* in fine shape in which I find it. For that I am very grateful to Brian Burt. I am sure all authors, reviewers and readers of the journal would share this view and join me in expressing our gratitude to Brian Burt for a job tremendously well done.

John Spencer
Editor
Adelaide

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