

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene* for 2009.

The year 2008 has been a good year for the journal. There has been an increase in submitted articles, especially in the months of February and June, and the last two issues have contained more pages. More articles have been written by dental hygienists, which always gives me a lot of satisfaction, on many different topics. More articles have been cited. The articles have come from 25 different countries which shows that the articles are read worldwide and that this journal is truly international. I would like to thank the authors for submitting to IDH and I am grateful for all their effort. The same is true for all the reviewers who were willing to spend their spare time reading and commenting the articles. A list of all the reviewers (until December 2008) can be found elsewhere in this issue. Without you all the journal would not exist. A special thanks to Jeanie Suvan and Francesco D'Aiuto who wrote the special editorial in the November issue writing about systematic reviews. Their text was

thoughtfully written and interesting to read, and has already been used in student education.

The journal is now produced in Singapore and Karen Zafaralla is the journal's Production Editor. I would like to thank Chris Burton for all his hard work in the past years. The journal also has a new Editorial Assistant, Isabel Martinez, who is a big help just as Karen is. Thank you, Katrine Flint Christensen, for helping me out by being the "between" editorial assistant with your already heavy workload.

In the near future, authors will receive a new Copyright Transfer Agreement. This has come about due to the merger of Blackwell Munksgaard with Wiley.

The amount of subscriptions has increased splendidly, which means that the impact of an article will be higher.

A lot has happened in the year 2008 looking at the journal. May the year 2009 be even better!

Marjolijn Hovius
Editor-in-Chief

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