

Editorial

Welcome to 16th volume of the *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* and a new Journal identity. As you read this editorial, you will have already noted the Journal's new cover. We hope that it conveys the intended message that this is a leading journal in the field with a strong scientific ambition. The overall cover design and graphics will remain constant, maintaining a clear identity, but the cover image will change annually.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you about other, more fundamental, changes planned for the Journal. Decisions were taken during the *IJPD* editorial board meeting, held in Sydney, November 2005, to implement several important changes to help us achieve the goal of increasing the Journal's scientific impact. The editorial board unanimously agreed that receiving an impact factor is the first priority for the Journal. This achieved, we would then hope to attract papers that are currently being sent to other journals due to the pressures on academics to only publish in journals with impact factors.

We also reviewed our 'instructions to authors' and would like readers and prospective contributors to pay special attention to these new instructions. We have tried to outline some new standards for Journal contributions as follows. Firstly, contributors of clinical research must ensure that their project has been approved by an appropriate ethical committee and that this detail is stated in the manuscript. A case report should include a *short* introduction to the literature and should then concentrate on the unique features of the presented case. Ideally case reports should include, not only the diagnosis but, also discussion of the long-term follow up and appraisal of any therapeutic measures instigated. Furthermore, only reports with photographic documentation and other graphic material of the highest quality can be considered for publication. The *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* also encourages publication of review articles. These review articles should clearly state how the literature search was conducted. The following key details should be included: search words; databases; inclusion criteria; endpoints employed by the referenced studies, and how the scientific evidence of each paper was rated. Adherence to this format will ensure that published literature reviews are more robust and thus more valuable to readers. The *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* currently has a backlog of papers waiting to be published, thus the above changes will only become evident in volumes issued later in 2006.

The editorial board also decided to discontinue the translation of abstracts into French, German and Spanish. This practice has, in the past, led to publication delay in some instances. More importantly, removal of translated abstracts will create additional space for the publication of papers. The decision to remove book reviews and abstracts from other journals was also made with the intention of maximising the number of scientific articles published in each *IJPD* volume.

We also plan to make accepted articles available online as soon as they have been typeset and approved by the authors. The paper will receive a Digital Objective Identifier (DOI) thus could be accessed as an online publication ahead of assignment of volume issue and page number. This innovation will be introduced later this year and will help to further shorten the time period from submission to publication.

We hope that these changes described will allow the editorial team of *IJPD* to serve our readership with the highest quality publications. Our foremost objective is to provide evidence-based, relevant and informative papers which will have educational, clinical and research value for the world-wide Paediatric Dentistry community.

GÖRAN DAHLÖF

Editor-in-chief

HELEN RODD and GÖRAN KOCH

Associate editors

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