

Editorial

My five year term as Editor of the *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* has now ended. With the combined efforts of Wiley-Blackwell, the Editorial Board, the Associate Editors, IJPD has now reached a significant standing in the dental research community. In 2008, we received our first impact factor of 1.074. In 2009, this increased to 1.141. This was the most important goal that we set out to achieve back in 2005.

The past five years have brought interesting developments for the Editorial Team. There has been an increase in the number of submissions from about 250 in 2005, to 392 in 2009. At the end of September this year, we had already received 387 submissions. The number of downloaded articles have increased from about 70 000 a year in 2005, to just below 100 000 in 2009.

It would be good to note that contributions have increased in countries like India, China and South Korea. However, we would need to develop further the submissions Eastern Europe and South America.

What are the joys of being an editor? There is an innate happiness, starting your computer and going through all the papers received, and finding a really really good one. It is also a tremendous joy to see an issue in print after compiling it.

The Editorial Team has also held seminars at the Bi-Annual Congresses of the International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry. It is particularly nice to meet young enthusiastic dentists starting out their career in dental research, discussing how they can contribute to the journal.

Another interesting aspect of being an editor is the constant contact with authors and reviewers. To assist the editorial team, we have a group of about 800 reviewers from across the globe, who read the papers, suggest improvements and also aid in the final decision.

What is the most difficult task for an editor? Overall the most difficult task is to reject papers. The IJPD has a rejection rate of about 80%. You would wish that this decision could be accompanied by reviews that would help authors in the future. With the present workload for the editors however, this is not always possible.

Even more difficult, is to reject papers that are good and have good reviews. You then

have to make priorities, comparing all articles being considered at the given time. This is of course an important and interesting process. It is also hard to make decisions about papers in areas that you have no expertise in. You then have to rely on the reviewers even more.

In order to attain our current impact factor, we have had to make changes over the years. An example of which was reducing the number of case reports.

Case reports are important for us as clinicians to show patients and their parents how the projected outcome of specific treatment is on the long-term basis. However, the problem with case reports is that many lack long-term follow-up. So encourage young residents to write structured reviews or meta-analyses. Leave case reports to those who can follow patients on a long-term basis.

What is the best way to improve our impact factor? I believe all colleagues working in the field of paediatric dentistry need to use articles published in the *International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry* as a basis for their own future research.

I would like to thank several people who have been very helpful during these years. First of all, Thomas Trier-Mørk, from Wiley-Blackwell. He knows the world of dental publishing and has been a guide during this period. Secondly, I would like to thank my Associate Editors, Helen Rodd from Sheffield, England, for the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry and Göran Koch from Jönköping, Sweden, for the International Association of Paediatric Dentistry. They have been ever enthusiastic and supportive, and it has been a pleasure to work together. Thirdly, thanks to the Editorial Board for their hard work reviewing, and for the guidance and support at the annual editorial board meetings. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff at Wiley-Blackwell for their efficient work and support over the years.

I would like to say welcome and good luck to the incoming Editor-in-Chief Professor Chris Deery, from Sheffield in England.

Stockholm, September 27, 2010

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