

Editorial

The Journal Balancing Act

LIFE is a balancing act, and editing the *Journal of Prosthodontics* is no exception. We find ourselves constantly balancing the needs of the College, our readers, our authors, and our reviewers and editors. Over the past few years, manuscript submissions to the *Journal* have more than tripled. This is quite a luxury for us, as Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor, to be able to pick and choose only the best research, the most innovative techniques and the most interesting clinical reports for publication in the *Journal*. And, it's a benefit to you, the reader—the *Journal* has been able to provide more of this research to you, and more often.

But, as much as this profusion of research is a boon to the *Journal* and to our readers, it is not necessarily a good thing for all the authors who submit their work to us or to the reviewers and editors who work diligently to make decisions about these manuscripts. When manuscripts are submitted to us, authors hope to hear a decision from us in a timely manner, and they hope for that decision to be well-reasoned with helpful suggestions for improvement. The more manuscripts we receive, the more difficult this process becomes for the many reviewers and editors we call on to keep the *Journal* running smoothly. What a terrific job they do! We make a decision on most manuscripts in approximately eight weeks, and more often than not those decisions are filled with thoughtful comments and helpful advice to improve the manuscript.

In June 2004, our online submission and review website, which makes the life of a reviewer much simpler, “went live.” And as helpful as it is to our reviewers and editors, it was also the first of many “author services” the *Journal* now offers.

Space in the *Journal* is limited—currently, we have access to only 510 pages annually. As the number of outstanding research manuscripts we receive continues to rise, we find ourselves unable to get everything into print in a timely manner. As much as authors want to hear a decision about their manuscript quickly, they also want their accepted manuscripts to be published quickly. Nothing quite compares to seeing your hard work

and years of research, writing, and revising in print. We realize it is frustrating for many of our authors whose work is accepted in the *Journal* to have to wait over a year to see it appear in print. Rest assured, we are working hard to find creative ways to get manuscripts published more rapidly, without compromising the final product that you, the reader, expect.

As of this year, we are providing two new services to our authors and readers. Our **Online Early service** allows articles to appear on the *Journal of Prosthodontics* website many months ahead of their appearance in print. These articles are fully peer reviewed, edited and complete—they only lack page numbers and volume/issue details—and are considered fully published from the date they first appear online. In fact, some articles that won't appear in print until early 2008 will be available online as early as this summer.

Additionally, the *Journal* is now participating in Blackwell Publishing's **Author Services website**. Authors will be able to track the production status of their article online, choose to receive e-mail alerts on article status, get free access to their article when it is published online on Blackwell Synergy, and receive a 20% discount on Blackwell publications. They will also be prompted to provide feedback, so that we, the *Journal's* editorial staff, can learn where we need to improve our service.

We look forward to receiving the authors' feedback, and we also look forward to hearing from the *Journal's* readers. We will be conducting a readers' survey in the coming months, and we hope you will take the time to respond to it—it should take less than 5 minutes. Visit <http://www.keysurvey.com/survey/142309/> and give us your opinions. The *Journal of Prosthodontics* is YOUR journal, and we value your opinions. Let us know what you think!

David A. Felton, DDS, MS, FACP
Editor-in-Chief

Alethea B. Gerding, BS, MA
Managing Editor

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American College of Prosthodontists

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