

Editorial

Molecular Oral Microbiology (MOM) has been on the road now for a little over 15 months. The name change from *Oral Microbiology and Immunology* (OMI) may have been misinterpreted to indicate that immunology was not recognized by the new Journal. On the contrary, immunology remains very much within the scope of MOM, and articles describing immunological studies are welcome provided that the studies are related to microbial infection. The scope has also been extended to include articles dealing with microorganisms of the upper respiratory tract.

We will take this opportunity to reiterate some of the many benefits of submitting papers to MOM. Authors do not have to pay any costs for colour illustrations or pay page charges. These features have been in place since the first issue in February 2010, but they have not been noticed by everyone.

Online manuscript processing through ScholarOne Manuscripts has proven most successful, and has facilitated a smooth electronic transition from OMI to MOM. A backlog of accepted articles from OMI was published through the first four issues of MOM. We are now receiving a steady submission of new articles. The average turnaround time from submission to final decision is 24 days. This is one of the fastest times in the microbiology/dental journals listings.

Two other features of our Journal are additionally attractive for authors considering MOM for their publications. First, papers are now available online immediately following acceptance, in common with a number of top journals. Second, we have a dedicated editorial board with wide expertise, and this ensures that submitted papers receive top-quality reviewing.

The worldwide representation of the Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Board engenders a truly international perspective for MOM.

In the name change from OMI to MOM we have encountered an unfortunate ruling issue surrounding the impact factor (IF) calculations. Because the transition was viewed as being relatively minor, we were allowed to retain the OMI IF of 2.3 for 2010. However, IF calculations are based upon an average of the previous 2 years, and as OMI was closed off in 2010 there is zero contribution to the OMI IF calculation for 2011. The IF will therefore be halved for 2011, but in 2012 it will be calculated based upon 2 years of MOM papers. We hope that this temporary hiccup in IF will not deter authors from submitting papers this year. We have some excellent citation rates already for MOM papers in 2010, so if authors continue to send their best work to MOM the IF returned for the Journal in 2012 will be higher than it ever was previously.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge with much appreciation the major efforts put into the development of MOM by Katrine F. Christensen (Wiley-Blackwell Journals Manager), and by Claire Ancell (Production Manager). This year we welcome Genevieve Ng, replacing Claire, and Anne Nixon (Editorial Assistant), who will provide administrative duties to keep the submission and reviewing processes running smoothly.

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