

EDITORIAL

Oral Diseases is a multidisciplinary and international journal re-launched early in 2005, which aims to foster integrative approaches to the understanding and management of oral and craniofacial conditions with particular reference to systemic implications. As such *Oral Diseases* provides a forum for addressing biological and clinical issues linked by an anatomical locale, thus bridging often-isolated concerns of dentistry and medicine. The new editorial leadership and the publishers are committed to make *Oral Diseases* the journal for clinicians and clinical investigators in the head and neck sciences. To accomplish this, the publisher has assembled a new, international and scientifically vibrant senior editorial team, with co-Editors Crispian Scully (UK) and Bruce Baum (USA), and six Associate Editors; Jose Bagan (Spain), Mats Jontell (Sweden), Hideaki Kagami (Japan), Luiz Kowalski (Brazil), Aaron Palmon (Israel) and Songtao Shi (USA). In addition, there is a new Advisory Editorial Board composed of renowned clinical and translational scientists from across the discipline spectrum in head and neck sciences. This aggregate group gives *Oral Diseases* the strongest focus available in publishing today on the relationship of oral and craniofacial conditions with systemic disorders. To facilitate re-launched journal operations, *Oral Diseases* has introduced entirely electronic submissions and handling, with improved manuscript processing, and including authors' assistance in reducing publication delays by speeding up corrections. Current publication times have already been dramatically improved over previous times. Based on 72 submitted papers, over 10 weeks between April and June 2005, key average processing times are as follows:

Days with reviewers	10
Days with Editors	3
Days from submission to final decision	25

Instructions to contributors are at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/odi>

Manuscripts should be submitted via <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/odi>

Furthermore, from December, *Oral Diseases* offers publication online prior to inclusion in a print issue. Articles will be published online within two weeks of page proofs being approved. OnlineEarly is the name given to Blackwell's major electronic publication in advance-of-print workflow, whereby manuscripts are put up online on our Synergy service before being published in the traditional way in print. The OnlineEarly version is considered to be the final, published

product and will be identical to the subsequent printed version – the only difference is that the printed version will contain page numbers and volume/issue information, and if necessary some minimal rearrangement of white space/figures for print purposes: the content will be entirely unaltered. For copyright purposes, the PDF version mounted online is considered the definitive version rather than the full-text HTML. There are numerous advantages of OnlineEarly including

- 1 faster publication of articles;
- 2 smoother 'constant flow' of work;
- 3 shorter acceptance to publication dates.

OnlineEarly articles have no volume, issue or page numbers, but can be cited using their DOI number.

The current *Impact Factor* (2004) for *Oral Diseases* is a respectable 1.585, and ranks the journal as number 12 of 48 journals in the 'dentistry, oral surgery and medicine' category. However, a goal of the editorial leadership and the publishers is to elevate that ranking considerably by attracting leading head and neck scientists to publish their trans-disciplinary research in *Oral Diseases*.

We invite manuscripts reporting laboratory investigations, well-designed and controlled clinical research, and analytical epidemiology on the following areas: autoimmune, endocrine, genetic, infectious, metabolic and mucosal diseases; cancer and precancerous conditions; chemosensory, developmental, geriatric and motor disorders, pain and wound healing.

Studies related to aetiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, prevention and treatment are all of interest, but all papers must be based on rigorous hypothesis-driven research.

The re-launched journal will contain:

Research papers

Both full-length and short-reports

Rapid research publications

Authors can ask for their manuscript to be fast-tracked for publication by providing reasons for the particular importance of their publication

Critical, evidenced-based reviews and opinion pieces

These may be either invited by the editorial team or can be proposed by authors to the co-Editors

Oral Diseases will no longer publish case reports.

Unfortunately, with change some problems can occur. The co-Editors have become aware of some unfortunate delays and problems in manuscript handling that occurred prior to April 2005. We apologize for this and we ask any author who has experienced such problems to please contact one of the co-Editors about the circumstances.

The new editorial team will do their best to provide readers with high quality and relevant clinical and translational research papers. Please feel free to contact any of us with constructive suggestions or ideas for the journal. We want *Oral Diseases* to be 'obligatory reading' for those committed to improving

patient management for oral and craniofacial conditions.

Bruce Baum
Crispian Scully

Copyright of Oral Diseases is the property of Blackwell Publishing Limited. The copyright in an individual article may be maintained by the author in certain cases. Content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.