

EDITORIAL

2005: A year of reorganisation and success

For *Oral Diseases*, 2005 was a year of much change and excellent progress. As is necessary in any long-term successful endeavor, growth and development are essential elements with change providing opportunities. Change, however, has come to *Oral Diseases* primarily in an operational sense. Although many new faces have been brought on board the *Oral Diseases* editorial team, and key procedures have been altered, we have not changed our direction or goal. Rather, we have redoubled our efforts to achieve our core mission. *Oral Diseases* was established to provide a forum for addressing biological and clinical science issues linked by anatomical locale, bridging often-isolated concerns of dentistry and medicine. Patients may suffer because of the absence of interdisciplinary communication and *Oral Diseases* tries to facilitate communication. We remain committed to not only further science but also to improve the care of patients with oral diseases.

By many key indicators of success, for 2005 *Oral Diseases* showed considerable progress. Our **Impact Factor** has increased by ~50%, to 1.585. **Readership** appears to have increased ~10% and is at record levels, if one can judge this reasonably from the rates of online downloads of published papers. **Submissions** of new manuscripts for publication have increased markedly over 2004 to more than 30/month, doubtless a reflection of the introduction during 2005 of **online submissions and review**. We are using Manuscript Central, which is easy for authors, easy for reviewers and easy for editors. This system is internet-based, accessible from anywhere in the world and available 24 hours a day, making submission

and peer-review fast and efficient. Indeed, currently the average reviewer turn-around-time for the year is only 14 days and getting better, with the average time between submission and the first decision on a manuscript only 37 days. For editors the turn-around-time is no more than 2 days. Some of the time involved in getting a first decision has been with manuscripts submitted lacking certain elements or not being in the correct format, and much has been in finding suitable reviewers. The latter is an often visibly thankless job, but one that is critical to the success of the entire scientific endeavor. At the end of the last 2005 issue (#6) was a listing of all those reviewers who have given of their precious time and expertise. We cannot adequately state our sincere appreciation to these individuals who have substantively, and silently, helped *Oral Diseases* make such progress. The end result of this year's review process is that at this time there is a 20% acceptance rate, making it now very competitive to publish in *Oral Diseases*.

So, all in all, 2005 has been a very good year for *Oral Diseases*. We, and the Associate Editors, will continue our efforts to improve our status and raise our visibility. While we believe we are on the right path to achieving our goals, we are by no means there. We are open to new ideas, we encourage our readers' suggestions, and by all means we welcome high quality manuscripts for submission. Very best wishes to all for the new year.

**Bruce Baum &
Crispian Scully**

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