

Looking forward

With this issue I take over the job as editor-in-chief of this journal from Orhan Tuncay, who has been responsible for all eight volumes published so far. He has been a very dedicated editor-in-chief, spending much time and effort to fulfill his mission and make this journal a success. Once again I would like to thank him and his team on the Editorial Board. And I know for sure that he will follow future developments of this journal in the years to come.

As an Editorial Board member I have been involved in 'Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research' from the start. But being asked to become the new editor-in-chief made me think a bit more about the journal and its mission. So, for me the question to be answered was: 'Is Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research just another journal on the orthodontic market'?

And indeed, it is not! The journal is published to serve its readers a forum for the presentation and discussion of issues pertinent to the advancement of the specialty of orthodontics and the evidence-based knowledge of craniofacial growth and development. This asks for effective communication between the research community and practicing clinicians. This is a challenge! And how should we do that?

It is a pity that we seem to have a dichotomy in the field of orthodontics and craniofacial anomalies between clinicians and scientists. Orthodontic clinicians tend to drift away from basic science and on the other hand, the world of basic science has drifted far apart from the clinic. It is becoming increasingly difficult to communicate with each other as we seem to understand each other no longer.

I consider it as one of my duties as an editor-in-chief to make knowledge accessible for everybody who is

interested in orthodontics and craniofacial biology. This puts a burden on the scientist to write his/her contribution, having the orthodontic community in mind, and to clarify the possible clinical importance in the near or more distant future. We will also ask all authors to include a small section on clinical relevance in their abstract. On the other hand, the clinician should realize that there is much more to discover than just another bracket system, de umpteenth cephalometric study, or the newest and latest orthodontic approach of Dr X. Articles on other topics than those, which seem to be directly related to daily clinical practice, could have a great, but yet unknown, impact on our profession. It is the dream of every editor-in-chief to have that breakthrough article published in his/her journal!

We already implemented one feature to facilitate the communication with our prospective authors. With the start of the 2006 volume of 'Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research' electronic submission of manuscripts will be available through <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ocr>. This will facilitate the editorial process and will also keep the authors informed about the progress of their study. We will continue our policy to get an article published within 6 months after acceptance.

Let us try to make things better and to facilitate the communication within our profession to the benefit of orthodontics and craniofacial biology. Suggestions from the readers to achieve this goal are therefore always very welcome.

Anne Marie Kuijpers-Jagtman
Editor-in-Chief

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