

The First Year

Dear Readers and Authors,

It is with great satisfaction that the Editorial Board looks back on the first year of activities of *Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry*.

An enthusiastic project, and a new journal was launched, and a new paradigm in odontological reporting was born. While more and more journals are spawned as representative forums for increasingly specialized aspects within our field, *Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry* was created to follow a multidisciplinary approach. It unites all fields of prevention of both plaque and non-plaque related oral diseases. The fact that cariology, periodontology, oral medicine and epidemiology are grouped under a preventive concept has been appreciated both by readers and authors alike. In this respect, the variety of the articles published in the four first issues reflects the popularity of this approach.

It is with great pride that the Editorial Board can look back on a very efficient peer review process of all the manuscripts submitted. This is largely due to an electronic back-office that audits the editorial process in detail. The editors thank all the numerous colleagues that have served as referees for the

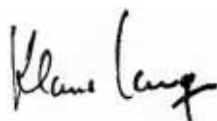
journal; the speed by which reviews were performed and which formed the basis for an efficient process is particularly acknowledged.

This positive balance contributes substantially to the increasingly significant recognition of *Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry* by the academic community. The flow of manuscripts and the numbers of new submissions, likewise testify to the prosperity of this young forum in preventive dentistry.

Already at the end of the first year *Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry* presents to its readership the proceedings of a workshop held in April 2003 in Münchenwiler Castle in the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. This workshop addressed the educators of Dental Hygienist Curricula and was entitled *Oral Care and General Health – Opportunities for the Dental Hygienists in Health Education in the New Century*. In presenting five excellent position papers and consensus reports from the workshop *Oral Health and Preventive Dentistry* contributes to the promotion and implementation of novel aspects of Dental Hygienist Curricula in support of the key role that dental hygienists will play in changing behavioral patterns of patients, thus improving both oral health and quality of life.



Jean-François Roulet



Niklaus P. Lang



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