

Old Values, New Directions

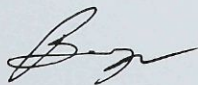
I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to provide the editorial leadership for the *Journal of Orofacial Pain*. I follow in the footsteps of the two previous editors of the journal, Harold Perry and Charles McNeill, to whom we owe so very much. Hal provided the leadership necessary to ensure that the journal was founded on high scientific principles and that it published timely scientific research and clinical material; over the last 4 years, Chuck has maintained the standards of the journal and the timeliness and quality of the published papers. I am also personally indebted to Chuck for his guidance and assistance during the transition of the editorship of the journal, and I take this opportunity to offer him my best wishes as he moves on to new ventures and activities. I am also grateful to the staff at Quintessence Publishing and to the chairman of the Journal Committee, Dr Jeffrey Okeson, and other committee members for their guidance, encouragement, and trust, and for making me and my associate editors feel very welcome.

In the inaugural issue of the journal in 1987, Hal Perry noted in his editorial message that “[w]e proudly proclaim the editorial objectives to publish prevailing research and clinical material of the behavioral, dental, and medical sciences directly or indirectly addressing craniomandibular disorders, facial and oral pain. . . . We must be able to modify and to mold new information into potentially positive benefits for our educational methods and for our patients’ welfare”; and in his “Farewell” editorial message in the last issue of the journal, Chuck McNeill outlined the qualifications and expertise that the new editorial team brings to the journal. These two messages are very much related. Given the editorial objectives that both Hal and Chuck have strived to implement and maintain and that I endorse, I believe it is in the best interest of the journal and the orofacial pain field to expand the editorial process and establish an editorial board that comprises an editor-in-chief and associate editors who collectively bring a breadth of experience and expertise covering various facets of orofacial pain, including several basic science disciplines as well as a number of clinical disciplines dealing with pain diagnosis, management, and research. These individuals should also have scientific and clinical credibility, a well-documented commitment to scientific excellence and the principles espoused in the editorial objectives, and, last but not least, good admin-

istrative experience and communication skills. I now believe that such a team has been selected, and I look forward very much to continuing to work closely with each of the journal’s four associate editors, as well as the Quintessence staff, to ensure the highest possible standards of publication.

With this in mind, I also have incorporated some changes into the review process that will build upon the mechanisms already in place. In the future, each manuscript, instead of being submitted through the Quintessence office in Chicago, should be submitted by the authors directly to my office in Toronto. The manuscript will then be immediately directed to one of the four associate editors, who will handle the process of reviewing it. This process will involve mechanisms similar to those arranged by Dr McNeill in recent years, except that the associate editor will have the authority to reject a manuscript judged to be unsuitable for publication in the journal; however, as editor-in-chief, I will retain the final authority to accept a manuscript for publication in the journal, to ensure that high standards are uniformly applied. We anticipate that this process will both expedite the publication process and ensure that a high level of scientific excellence is attained.

I and others have raised a number of additional matters for the editorial board to discuss, with the view to ensuring the standards as well as expanding the scope of the journal. We shall be considering further means for improving the review process and the visibility of the journal, as well as the possible introduction of a structured abstract of each submitted manuscript, letters to the editor, solicited review papers, and electronic publishing, plus the need for translation of the abstract into two or more languages. These matters will be addressed in detail this year at the first meeting of the editorial board. I would welcome the input of the readership on these matters, and indeed I invite readers to contact me with constructive criticisms and suggestions on any matter they believe would assist the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* in reaching its full potential.



Barry J. Sessle
Editor-in-Chief

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