



## Happy Anniversary!

This new year heralds in the 20th anniversary of the *Journal of Orofacial Pain*. To earmark this achievement, the journal has a new look, with a more dynamic cover and some formatting changes to inside pages. The *Journal of Orofacial Pain* has a wonderful legacy and foundation upon which to build as it moves ahead into its third decade. The first issue of the journal appeared in 1987, and the 2 previous editors of the journal, Harold Perry and Charles McNeill, provided the leadership necessary to ensure that the journal was founded on high scientific principles and that it published timely scientific research and clinically related articles. When I took over the position of editor-in-chief 8 years ago, an editorial board, including an editor-in-chief and 4 associate editors, was established. This board has brought to the journal a vast experience and expertise covering various facets of orofacial pain and related conditions, including several basic science disciplines as well as a number of behavioral and clinical disciplines dealing with pain diagnosis, management, and research. The associate editors have been responsible for handling the review of all submitted articles. We believe this has helped ensure the high standards of the journal and assisted in the journal receiving ISI citation index status 6 years ago. Based on its impact factor, the journal has continued to be 1 of the top-ranked journals in the dental field and is also well-positioned in the pain field.

The journal took another step in its evolution in 2004 when Internet-based electronic submission and manuscript review processes were introduced. This brought the journal into line with many other journals applying advanced electronic technology to scientific publishing. Although, as noted in

recent editorials (volume 19, issues 2 and 4), challenges still exist with the peer review process, the electronic processes in general have helped facilitate the handling of manuscripts.

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.” Over the past 20 years, the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* has been able to meet these objectives and indeed to improve its status as a highly credible scientific journal in both the dental and pain fields. Many have contributed significantly to the recent successes of the journal, and I am very grateful to the Academy Journal Committee for its support and encouragement, to the staff at Quintessence Publishing for their high level of professionalism and guidance, to my administrative staff in Toronto for their excellent administrative support of the submission and review processes, to the associate editors for their tireless efforts in ensuring the journal’s high standards, and to the many clinicians and scientists who have elected to submit their articles to the journal. I trust that the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* can build upon its success and continue to serve the orofacial pain community for many more decades!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry J. Sessle".

Barry J. Sessle  
Editor-in-Chief