

Thank you

“Being a writer is like having homework every night for the rest of your life,” Lawrence Kasden once said. I certainly do not wish to be so presumptuous as to claim to be a writer in the sense meant by Kasden, but the same quote can apply to a dental editor responsible for writing a monthly editorial for an international dental journal—there is *always* something, usually past the deadline (like this editorial, which I am writing just hours before boarding a plane for Europe . . . and now on the plane to Europe . . . and now at Schipol Airport, Amsterdam!), that needs urgent attention. The quote gives a clue as to why I feel it is time for me to move on. This, therefore, is my last editorial, at least in this capacity. Twelve editorials a year for 13 years without a break—yes, it’s time!

As I wrote to Mr H. W. Haase, our respected publisher, “I have been your Editor-in-Chief for 13 years and I have been feeling for some time that it is time for a change. It is time for *QI* to move into a new era and time for a new Editor-in-Chief who has the energy, the vision, and the time to devote to the changes ahead—and it is time for me to channel my energies into new areas.” But, as one who has been so close to all the people involved with this journal for so many years, and as one who has put so much of himself into this journal, I do not leave without some pangs of regret and sadness.

For those who think the “editor-in-chief” does all the work, or even most of the work, they are wrong. There are many others who work hard and long to put out the quality journal of which we are justifiably proud—it starts with the production manager in Berlin; for all my 13 years, and for years before and I am sure for many years after, this has been the indefatigable Karin Wintonowycz. Thank you, Karin. You have always been very kind to me.

The hard work continues with the managing editor in Chicago and ends with the reviewers, all of whom need a huge “thank you!” from me. I thank Jean Berry

and Dolores Landeck, who were consummate managing editors during my early years when good manuscripts were hard to find. How I remember some of the interesting experiences in making sure we had the quality to fill the quantity! Barbara Holmstrom, who took over in my midyears, was a great help and an able teacher for me. I learned something every week from people like Barbara and the present production editor, Arinne Dickson. Thank you both. I cannot forget to also thank two other production editors who were with us for relatively short periods, Ellen Bergschneider and Debbie Landers.

I would also like to thank Eileen Stombaugh for her superb organization during her many years as editorial assistant.

Where can I start to thank the faithful group of friends and colleagues who consented to be section editors and reviewers for many years? The job of a reviewer is a thankless, anonymous labor that benefits us all by maintaining a level of scientific and clinical quality to this journal’s articles. In many cases, reviewers greatly assist authors in improving the end product, the written documentation for a long project. Some, like Jerry Barrack, Tony DiAngelis, and Dan Laskin, have assisted me all 13 years. What patience and dedication! A special thank you goes to them. Thanks also to all those additional section editors in the following list and the other nameless (because I would forget someone!) yet important colleagues who served as additional reviewers.

Many sincere thanks go to those who served as section editors: Jerry Barrack (‘85-‘96), D. Walter Cohen (‘85-‘91), Tony DiAngelis (‘85-‘96), Tom Graber (‘85), Mal Jendresen (‘85-‘87), Dan Laskin (‘85-‘96), Gunnar Bergenholtz (‘86-‘89), Lee Graber (‘86-‘96), Bill Douglas (‘88-‘96), Steve Duke (‘88-‘96), Harald Heymann (‘88-‘96), Lloyd Miller (‘88-‘89), Herb Shillingburg (‘89-‘96), the late Gordon Mattison (‘90-‘93), Ivar Mjör (‘90-‘96), Ken

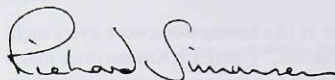
Anusavice ('91-'96), John McLean ('91-'96), Frank Spear ('91-'96), Tom Wilson ('92-'96), David Cochran ('92-'96), and Eric Rivera ('94-'96).

I learned a lot from reading their reviews and criticisms. My favorite quote from a reviewer was from Dan Laskin. He wrote recently in the review of an article: "Data is not the plural of anecdote." A statement we all should remember.

Our authors and readers deserve thanks for providing the lifeblood of this journal. Without you there would be no journal and no opportunity for sharing scientific progress with colleagues from around the world. My thoughts as always go out to those of you whose articles were not accepted. I always feel badly for someone who has put a lot of work into an article only to have an editor pass on the bad news that the article isn't appropriate for publication.

Finally, I must thank Mr Haase and Ms Tomoko Tsuchiya for their friendship, support, and above all, their patience and understanding. I appreciate everything you have done for me.

To one and all, many thanks—and now for a few evenings and weekends without *QI* homework!



Richard J. Simonsen
Editor-in-Chief