

Expanding the Scope

Several changes to the manuscript review process of the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* were described in my first editorial, which was published in the journal earlier this year. I now wish to outline some additional new directions that the Editorial Board envisages will both enhance the journal's reputation and its usefulness for our readers, and also provide additional publishing opportunities for contributors to the journal. The Journal Committee endorsed these directions at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain (AAOP) in Washington, DC earlier this year.

Until this year, each issue of the journal was largely devoted to clinical or basic science research reports; it also regularly carried an Editorial. Periodically, there also appeared AAOP meeting abstracts, reviews of articles published in other journals, and very occasionally reviews on selected topics and conference proceedings were published. While these features will be retained, the scope of articles will be expanded so that several types of peer-reviewed articles will now be considered for publication: research reports, topical reviews, invited focus articles and associated critical commentaries, letters to the editor, invited guest editorials, and proceedings of symposia or conferences. In addition to the reviews of journal articles that would be of interest to readers, the journal will also periodically publish book reviews selected by the Editorial Board and a 1- to 2-page review of a recent meeting or workshop that included topics relevant to orofacial pain and related conditions; this review will normally be written by one of the journal's associate editors.

In addition to the abstracts of papers presented at the annual AAOP meeting, abstracts of papers presented at the annual meetings of the other affiliated academies will also be reviewed and selected for publication by the Editorial Board. These abstracts will inform the journal's readers of the research activities within each academy, and their review by the Editorial Board will ensure that only abstracts of sufficient scientific and grammatic quality appear in the journal.

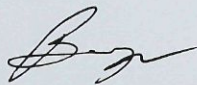
Three other changes should also be noted. First, starting next year the journal will no longer publish the abstract translations that currently appear at the end of each published research report. There were several reasons for this decision, the main one being that English is now the accepted language of science; furthermore, there is a considerable financial cost involved in providing these abstract translations, and few other scientific publications provide this feature.

Second, it will now be necessary for the author of each manuscript to submit an abstract with a structured format (Aims, Methods, Results, and Conclusion); this will assist the author in outlining, and the reader in obtaining, the essential elements of the published paper. Third, because the review of each submitted manuscript is now being handled in most cases by an associate editor with direct knowledge of the subject matter of the manuscript, the number of reviewers of a manuscript will normally be two instead of three; this should expedite the review process.

The Guidelines for Authors that appear in each issue of the journal have been accordingly modified to reflect the expanded scope of peer-reviewed material that will be published in the journal, as well as the changes to the editorial review process; the revised guidelines also incorporate a Mandatory Submission Form that will now be required to be included with each submitted manuscript. This form addresses the author's copyright transfer, responsibilities, conflict of interest disclosure, and adherence to human/animal experimentation principles; it is similar to the form that is now required by most other scientific journals.

In modifying the editorial review process and expanding the scope of material published in the journal, the Editorial Board intends to provide the reader with a journal that is not only of high scientific quality but is also dynamic, interactive, and inclusive. Thus, the reader will be provided with a concentrated, informed perspective on specific issues at the frontiers of pain practice and research and with the latest information in basic science and clinical research bearing on orofacial pain and related conditions.

I welcome the comments of readers of the journal, either in the form of a personal note to me or as a Letter to the Editor. I also urge readers to bring to the attention of other clinicians and scientists with an active interest in orofacial pain research and management the increased opportunities for publication of their research material and views in the *Journal of Orofacial Pain*.



Barry J. Sessle
Editor-in-Chief

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