

# EDITORIAL

## Shaping up for the future



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A year has passed since we first gathered as the new editorial board of *Quintessence International*. Now is a great opportunity to review the first year and to plan and prepare for the future. However, we would first like to take an opportunity to congratulate *QI*'s most recent editor-in-chief, Avishai Sadan, for his new appointment as the dean of the University of Southern California Dental School. Having known Avishai for many years, we have no doubt that he will make essential contributions to the USC Dental School and to the dental community in general.

During this past year, *QI* experienced a tremendous increase in manuscript submissions, with the average monthly submission of more than 70 manuscripts. We are pleased to report that *Quintessence International* continues to maintain an outstanding attractiveness and position in the field. At the same time, we are indebted to our colleagues on the editorial team, our associate editors, and our reviewers for their diligence in maintaining the quality of articles. Of course, this leads to a desirable improvement in the quality of the manuscripts we publish; however, at the same time, the acceptance rate will be reduced. Currently, fewer than 15% of the manuscripts submitted to *Quintessence International* are accepted for publication. We are troubled by the fact that many good submissions must be rejected, and this is disappointing for authors, but our focus on original and novel manuscripts should ensure the journal's attractiveness. At the same time, we are aware that prompt evaluations and decisions will help a rejected manuscript to be published in another journal in a timely fashion. Reasonable review time is one of our most challenging goals. In 2009, we managed to reduce the average review time to less than 4 weeks, which should be acceptable for our authors. We aim for a further reduction in the coming year.

The audience of *Quintessence International* is the dental community and clinicians who practice dentistry. We approach the review process with this in mind. We welcome any clinical and basic science research as long as the study has clinical

relevance. As reviewers, we can often see the relevance hiding behind the sophisticated methods, but sometimes we do not, which might lead to rejection of well-designed, well-written, and very interesting manuscripts. However, we still believe that our readers and authors may benefit from a focus on the clinical implications of a study.

Many times, we face well-written and properly documented case reports that we cannot accept for publication. Cases that do not add much to the existing literature may serve as great didactic material, but should not be published in a peer-reviewed journal. Furthermore, very rare or unique cases from which the general practitioner at whom *QI* is aimed will not benefit in his daily work should not be published in this journal; since these cases should nevertheless be interesting, they may find a home in one of many other excellent (but more specialized and dedicated) dental publications.

We strongly encourage authors to submit case series. Although not as scientific as randomized clinical trials, these can shed more light on a topic than a single case. For a single case, we would normally require a sufficient follow-up (minimum of 6 months). Finally, for any case report, we ask authors to consider using the short case format. We found that in most cases, no more than 700 words, four illustrations, and five references is sufficient for a decent case description. A type of publication that we lack is that of new procedures or presentation of methods. We believe that *QI* can be a beneficial source in which clinical ideas, methods, and approaches are shared among the dental community.

We are looking forward to another fruitful, stimulating, clinically relevant, and scientifically based year.

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