
My First Steps as Editor of a Journal

Dear Reader,

As you could read in Professor Roulet's editorial in the first issue of the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry* in 2004, I accepted the offer to serve as an additional Editor-in-Chief. Being active in research within the field of adhesive dentistry since 1988 (with special attention to the underlying mechanisms of adhesion to dental tissue), I considered François' offer an honor and privilege. I did not hesitate and almost immediately took on this editorial responsibility, even in the knowledge that this will take up some of my already scarce free time, in addition to my busy academic life at the Catholic University of Leuven.

As François mentioned, our Journal is in very good shape, and I sincerely hope to contribute to its success by helping him keep it at the high level he has managed to attain since its foundation in 1999. I admire François' effort and enthusiasm in serving the dental community with "his" Journal. I think we should be very thankful he took the initiative to found a journal devoted primarily to this rapidly evolving field of adhesive dentistry, which determines our routine daily clinical practice to an ever greater extent. I see the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry* as a major source of peer-reviewed literature, reporting on original and innovative laboratory and clinical research, all assembled within a journal that does indeed have a great deal to offer, for instance:

- An undeniably superb printing quality of color figures and microscopic and clinical images
- A high intake of high-quality manuscripts dealing with diverse aspects of adhesive dentistry
- A balanced mixture of reports on basic research and research with immediate clinical application and relevance
- A broad editorial board of experts within the field
- An electronic submission system shortening and facilitating submission of manuscripts
- An electronic review system shortening and facilitating review
- A worldwide readership of researchers and general practitioners with special interest in adhesive dentistry

- Organization of international adhesive dentistry symposia on a regular basis
- A highly competent publisher, owner of many high-quality journals within dentistry and medicine

At a recent editor's meeting in Copenhagen, I was introduced to the "other side" of our Journal, ie, the management of manuscripts. I was pleasantly surprised by the tremendous effort the editorial staff exerts not only to provide a well-established and easy-running electronic submission and review system, but also to constantly adjust the software according to our editorial needs. There is much professionalism behind the scenes of our Journal, much more than I had ever imagined. In the meantime, I was also confronted with the difficult task of deciding to accept/reject/revise papers, especially when contrasting review reports are returned. I promise that I will exercise this often delicate responsibility in the most objective and constructive way and in close agreement with the whole editorial staff.

For many of us (at least in Europe and Japan), the "impact factor" of a journal is often used by heads of universities and research foundations to estimate someone's qualities in research, often despite heavy criticism on the appropriateness of this parameter. Although the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry* is still not listed by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), I know it is one of our highest priorities to obtain this listing and thus the greatly desired impact factor. As part of my editorial tasks, I hope to lighten François' duties by assisting him in editorial decision making, in keeping the scientific level of the Journal high, and by increasing the readership to keep our Journal healthy. I look forward to constructively working with those of you who will submit papers for publication in the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry* and/or serve the Journal by reviewing papers.



Professor Bart Van Meerbeek