



Author Alert

In 1985, *The International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Implants (IJOMI)* began as a quarterly publication. Manuscript volume grew, and in 1993, the journal became a bimonthly periodical. In 2005, Quintessence will be printing the 20th volume of the journal, and while it remains a bimonthly journal, manuscript volume continues to grow. Over the past 6 years, the number of manuscripts submitted annually has nearly doubled. Because the number of articles submitted has increased while the roster of consultants that staff the peer review program has remained relatively stable, the time from manuscript receipt to publication has at times become objectionable. In addition, the editorial staff has found it necessary to adopt priority ranking of manuscripts to enable earlier publication of the most timely, high-quality, implant-specific articles submitted.

Prior to 1993, the number of articles published per volume ranged from 12 to 57. Since the journal became bimonthly, the number of articles per volume has increased from 74 in 1993 to a peak of 96 in 2003. This steady growth has significantly overburdened our roster of well-qualified consultants and encumbered the peer review process in general.

On occasion during the past year, issues of the IJOMI have included an "attention box" notifying potential authors that in coming months they would have the opportunity to submit manuscripts electronically. Some assumed that the process was already in effect and attempted to use the online capability even though it was not available. Quintessence has adopted a software program suitable for the electronic submission of manuscripts, and several of its journals now have that capability.

At the recent annual meeting of the IJOMI editorial staff, the decision was made to bring the submission process for this journal online effective January 1, 2005, for volume 20. On October 1, 2004, we will begin accepting submissions online (see page 778 for the procedure for electronic sub-

mission). Between October 1 and December 31, manuscripts may be submitted either by hard copy, as has been done in the past, or electronically. Beginning January 1, 2005, we will only accept manuscripts submitted online.

To further expedite manuscript processing, the consultant roster has been nearly doubled. By increasing the number of reviewers and expanding the expertise base, it is anticipated that article review will be facilitated. Furthermore, using the electronic process, it will be possible for authors to directly monitor the progress of their manuscript review and provide requested revisions. However, while the review process should be shortened, there can be no guarantee that accepted manuscripts will be published any sooner.

A possible resultant disadvantage for authors to the changes implemented to more effectively manage submissions may be increased selectivity. Potential authors should know, for example, that case history and technical note content will receive more scrutiny, particularly in light of available material previously published in the scientific literature. The same can be said for the reporting of uncontrolled clinical case series, especially those with small study samples and short, incomplete follow-ups.

The "bottom-line" advantages for both authors and the journal will be a more efficient, less time-consuming manuscript submission and review process, less paperwork, earlier acceptance/rejection decisions, and improved publication quality. Hopefully, the new procedure will appeal to potential IJOMI authors and be further evidence of our ongoing efforts in the pursuit of journal excellence.

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