

EDITORIAL

At the annual meeting of the Board of the Acta Odontologica Scandinavica Society held in July 2010 during the International Association for Dental Research meeting in Barcelona, I was formally appointed to the post of Editor of this journal. Prior to that I had served as Interim Editor following the sudden death of the previous Editor, Folke Lagerlöf, in January 2010. Folke had built up the reputation of the journal considerably during his term as Editor. The impact factor had risen and the journal had opened itself to publishing papers from all over the world, not just from the Nordic countries. This has increased the number of manuscripts submitted to the journal but the emphasis on the quality of the published papers remains. The journal and the Acta Odontologica Scandinavica Society benefited hugely from Folke's time as Editor and I am grateful to him for his dedication to the journal throughout his term as Editor.

Publishing research papers is a key aspect of academic activity, not least in dentistry, in both clinical areas and the basic sciences. Increasingly, the publication of research is recognized as a key area of postgraduate training in dentistry, particularly at the doctoral level but also as part of specialist training. Furthermore, publication of research is an increasingly important area of academic life that should be no less so in dentistry than in other academic-clinical subjects. It is my aim as Editor that *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* will continue to contribute significantly to this process with the efficient review and publication of good clinical and scientific papers.

The publication of academic papers has become much more streamlined with growth of the electronic submission, review and processing of manuscripts. Readers now increasingly access electronically the papers in which they are interested. Some individuals, as well as many departmental and university libraries, still perceive, however, a need for printed versions of journals. Thus the predicted move to wholly electronic journals has not yet happened but this area is one which I, along with our Associate Editors and publishers, will follow closely.

Acta Odontologica Scandinavica is not only dependent on authors for good papers but also on the reviewers, who are the key to the peer-review process

that is so important in the publication of scientific and clinical research. With increasing workloads and demands on their time, academics often show an increasing reluctance to review manuscripts. This is not a feature unique to *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* but the importance of good peer review should be apparent to all leading academics and clinicians, as their own research and that of their students relies heavily on the quality of the journal-review process. I fully appreciate the problems but hope that my colleagues will try wherever possible to review articles when requested or at least to suggest alternative reviewers. This is the only way to ensure a reasonably quick review process and to maintain the quality of the papers published in *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica*.

At the Board meeting of the Acta Odontologica Scandinavica Society in July our Editorial Assistant, Anette Oliveby, indicated her desire to step down from this position. She has contributed considerably to the smooth running of both the journal and the Acta Odontologica Scandinavica Society and receives our grateful thanks for her hard work over many years.

In addition to editorial duties, the Editor of *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* was until now also the administrator of the Acta Odontologica Scandinavica Society. This function is really only possible for a person resident in Sweden, where the Society is legally based. The Board therefore decided to appoint an Administrative Officer to carry out these duties. I am pleased to welcome Dr Mikael Wendel of the Karolinska Institutet to this important post.

I am grateful to the board of *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* for the trust they have placed in me by appointing me as Editor of this journal. It is an interesting and challenging post, particularly at present when so many developments in scientific publishing are occurring. I look forward to these challenges and to providing what I hope will be a useful service for the community of dental researchers.

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