

## Editorial

### Time to change: Folke Lagerlöf, New Editor

After 6 stimulating years as Editor, I am now leaving *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica*, and Dr. Folke Lagerlöf will take over the editorial leadership of the journal. Dr. Lagerlöf, who is a Professor in Cariology at the Faculty of Odontology, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, was appointed Editor of the journal at the Board meeting of the Foundation on 23 August 1997, for the 3-year period 1998 to 2000. He was chosen among several qualified applicants because of his solid background in dental research and his long-term editorial experience in the journal *Caries Research*. All future manuscript submissions to *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* must therefore now be mailed to Dr. Folke Lagerlöf, Department of Cariology, Faculty of Odontology, Karolinska Institute, Box 4064, S-141 04 Huddinge, Sweden.

It has been a privilege to work with *Acta*, and I wish to take the opportunity to thank all the people who have made these years so interesting, stimulating, and productive. The authors have in general been very disciplined and submitted manuscripts that largely have followed the instructions of the journal and mostly been of good quality. One probable explanation for the high average standard of the manuscripts submitted to *Acta* is the policy of the journal only to accept papers from Nordic researchers or people working at institutions in the Nordic countries. This guarantees a relatively homogeneous quality. I have applied the same policy when selecting the more than 100 referees used every year. I am most grateful to all the reviewers for their ambitious work in evaluating the manuscripts and suggesting possible changes to improve the quality of the paper without any other reward than receiving thanks at the end of the year. It is an advantage to work in a scientific community and meet such unselfish collaboration. I think it is fair to say that the quality of a journal is a reflection of the referees.

My special thanks are given to Mrs. Nina Klubal, who has been of invaluable assistance to me in the editorial work. I am happy that I have managed to persuade her to accompany me to my new job as Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Prosthodontics*.

I wish to thank the associate editors, who have been so loyal to me and to *Acta* over the years. I am happy to see that all but one of them have agreed to continue in the same position in the coming years. The work with the Foundation of *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica*, comprising representatives of all the dental schools and the dental associations of the five Nordic countries, has been a very positive experience with full editorial independence within the bylaws of the Foundation. The collaboration with the publisher, Scandinavian University Press (ScUP), Oslo, Norway, has been very smooth and agreeable. To work within this extremely experienced and professional organization, publishing more than a hundred scientific and

scholarly journals, has given a feeling of safety. I wish to thank all the people at ScUP who have been and are involved in the production of *Acta* for their administrative support, and especially Ms Ellen Johannessen, Copy Editor, and Ms Gerd Halvorsen, Editorial Coordinator, for their always positive and friendly approach to solving any problems over the years.

In spite of its regional character, *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* is an established international dental journal with a worldwide distribution, mainly due to the high quality of dental research in Scandinavia and the Nordic countries. Over many years it has kept a position among the 20 top journals in the Science Citation Index list of impact factors. In the 1995 list *Acta's* impact factor was 0.99, and the position was 12 of the 37 listed among the hundreds of dental journals published in the world.

During the last few years *Acta* has changed layout and increased its volume. This has led to an increase in the number of published articles by about 35%, with a reduction of publication time. The average time from reception of a manuscript to acceptance has been on average 3 months while the time from acceptance to publication has varied over the years. It is currently about 4 to 6 months, which gives a total median time from reception to publication of 8 months.

#### *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* Awards

At the *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* Foundation meeting in August 1997 in Reykjavik, the Board decided to introduce two *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* awards to be presented for the first time at the Foundation meeting in 1998. One award (of NOK 10,000) will be presented to the author(s) of the best article published in *Acta* during the year. The other award (of NOK 50,000) will be given to a researcher for excellent contribution to dental research, including one or more publications in *Acta*. Both these awards will be presented annually. The recipients of these awards will be selected by separate committees, appointed by the Board of the Foundation at the meeting in Reykjavik. The new awards emphasize the essence of the bylaws stating that the Foundation shall support dental research in the Nordic countries.

Great changes are taking place in scientific publication, and some people believe that the use of Internet and other electronic media will make the conventional scientific journals unnecessary. I am convinced, however, that this will not happen, at any rate in the near future. Therefore I wish *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica* and its new editorial leadership all success during the remaining years of this century and a bold jump into the exciting new millennium.

Gunnar E. Carlsson  
Editor