

A Year of Progress

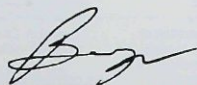
Having now been at the helm of the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* for a year as Editor-in-Chief, I think there is merit in reviewing some of the major activities on the editorial side of the journal, and in taking the opportunity to announce another feature of the journal. The editorial mission of the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* has been retained; namely, to provide a source of information and informed opinion for practitioners and researchers in the field of pain, and in particular orofacial pain, headache, temporomandibular disorders, and occlusally related conditions. The journal is distinguished from other journals in pain-related fields because of its unique focus on orofacial pain and related topics and the variety of means by which it achieves this focus.

This past year, the Editorial Board has been expanded to include 4 Associate Editors, who bring their broad, collective expertise to bear in the review process. This has ensured that manuscripts receive timely and fair review involving recognized authorities in the field. The scope of articles has also been expanded to include not only clinical or basic research reports, but also topical reviews, invited focus articles, and associated critical commentaries. Several of these are planned for upcoming issues of the journal, and the first topical review indeed appeared in the last issue. Letters to the editor, editorials, and proceedings of symposia or conferences are also encouraged.

In addition to broadening the scope of the journal and ensuring the high quality of the articles published in it, another major goal of my first year as Editor-in-Chief was to

enhance the level of scientific indexing of the journal. Until 1998, the indexing of the journal had been quite limited, despite the journal's high quality and the wide citation of several of its published papers since it came into existence some 12 years ago. I shared the view of the Editorial Board and the Journal Committee that it was necessary to ensure that the journal took its place amongst the 8,000 international journals indexed each year by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The ISI performs an extensive evaluation in selecting a journal for its coverage; this evaluation is based on factors such as the journal's publishing standards, its editorial content, the international nature of its authorship, and the citation data associated with it.

I am pleased to announce that, in response to my request, ISI has evaluated the *Journal of Orofacial Pain* and has decided to include it in the database that it covers in its indexing, retroactive to the first issue of 1998. This reflects very well on the journal and the steps that the Journal Committee and the Editorial Board have taken to enhance its quality and broaden its scope. Contributors to the journal can now be assured of an appropriate level of indexing of their published articles, in a journal recognized for its high standards and its unique, broad coverage of orofacial pain and related conditions.



Barry J. Sessle
Editor-in-Chief