

Ethics in Publishing

Dear Readers,

When reading the names of the authors of published papers and comparing them with the list of affiliations of the authors, I sometimes have the strong feeling that at some institutions, authors do not comply with the rule that every author should be able to take scientific responsibility for a manuscript, i.e., should have substantially contributed to its content (see J.-F. Roulet: Good ideas have many fathers. *J Adhes Dent* 7: 179, 2005). Certain patterns are obvious: For example, Author 1 = senior staff member of Dept. A, Author 2 = student, Author 3 = chairman of Dept. A, Author 4 = engineer/technician in Dept. B, Author 5 = chairman of Dept B.

One interpretation is that this is a good and fair cooperation between both departments and everyone has contributed according to their best expertise. However, another interpretation could be that the topic is clearly a speciality of Dept. A, the work was done by the student under the supervision of the senior staff member, and that the testing (e.g., bond strength) was performed by the engineer/technician of Dept. B, which owns the testing equipment.

Such observations are unfortunately substantiated both by complaints I hear during discussions at scientific congresses and by letters to the editor about practices at some universities. To avoid such unpleasant discussions or assumptions, the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry* has decided, beginning with issue # 1 2011, to require

all authors to disclose their contribution to the published paper. We will add this to the affiliation/function of the authors. The disclosure could include things such as “idea, hypothesis, experimental design, performed the experiments (in partial fulfillment of requirements for a certain degree), wrote the manuscript, proofread the manuscript, performed xy test, consulted on and performed statistical evaluation, substantial part of discussion, etc”.

By taking these steps toward increasing transparency, we hope to be fair to all authors involved in the publication process.

The year 2011 will bring further improvements to the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*. First, we were able to obtain more pages per issue from the publisher, which means that we will be able to print more papers per issue. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the publisher for his continuous support of the *Journal of Adhesive Dentistry*. Second, we have reorganized the editorial board by adapting it to the changed needs of the *Journal*. With a more even distribution of the topics the experts can handle, we hope to spread the review load more evenly on more shoulders, thus speeding up the editorial process.

With this strong start into the new year, we hope to serve you, our readers, even better.

Sincerely yours



Jean-François Roulet