

Editorial

Much ado about resin

There was a time when I was rather narrow-minded about dental terminology. I hope that, without relaxing the basic rules of grammar, I have loosened up a little with the passing of the years. This issue of *Quintessence International*, unusual for its inclusion of five research papers from a single symposium, brought home to me the conflicts that can arise when authors insist on specific terminology in their papers. When such individually preferred terminology is at variance with the editorial policy of a journal, what does the hapless editor do?

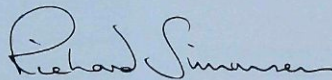
Every journal needs editorial consistency. It would be extremely confusing to readers if different words for the same object were used indiscriminately. In this issue of *Quintessence International* we welcome the inclusion of an outstanding research symposium with top international authors. While we do not, and will not, publish such symposia with great frequency, I felt that this particular symposium had extraordinarily qualified participants discussing a dynamic and highly topical subject matter of interest to most general practitioners. However, the insistence of some authors on using their personally preferred terminology for "composite," or "composite resin," or "resin composite," or "resin-based composite," meant that our editorial policy of using the term "composite resin" was challenged.

As I understand it, the term "resin composite" has now been accepted by certain associations with international influence as the "correct" phrase. So be it.

Quintessence International can certainly change editorial policy whenever it is appropriate to keep up with advances in the field. If a group of international colleagues, vested with the incredibly important task of determining such things, has said it is to be "resin composite" in the future, then our editorial board will consider a policy revision. However, just as soon as we change our policy to use "resin composite" we will get an author who will contumaciously demand to use "composite," or "resin-based composite," or "composite resin." No matter what the editorial policy, someone will feel that their work has suffered incalculably by an editor changing a word here and there.

It is really so important? Ultimately, the reader will understand what is meant no matter which term we use in describing a composite resin material. Maybe authors in the future should consider compromising on a word or two and letting our editorial policies prevail without threatening not to play in our pages if we don't use their ball.

If you have come to the conclusion that this is much ado about resin—I agree.



Richard J. Simonsen
Editor-in-Chief