

Editorial

Conflicting goals

With the passing of another year comes the need to review our performance for you, the readers, and for you, the authors. It is, after all, readers and authors that we seek to provide with an educational, interesting, and readable journal that provides an outlet for reports of scientific and clinical progress in our field.

With this responsibility to readers and authors comes another, sometimes conflicting, obligation, to the publisher. While readers may have many different desires and demands for the journal, and authors each have their own idea of what should appear in print, the publisher is dependent on a balance that is also economically viable. This means we cannot always publish every article we receive, despite the possibly high quality of the work. For accepted papers, we cannot always publish every article in color, nor can we print 60 illustrations with every article.

I believe it is fair to say that one major goal, set some years ago, has been achieved. Some years ago this journal and others were struggling to find enough good material to fill their pages. Similar struggles can be seen today with the proliferation of new journals and their inevitable inability to find papers of sufficient quality to fill their pages — the result is that many articles that should never see the light of day spew forth from these magazines. With the paucity of good material comes the temptation to promote products. Recently one journal ran an issue in which six of the seven articles, supported by multiple advertisements, promoted one particular bonding agent.

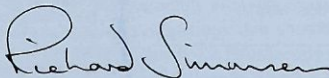
With the increasing respect that *Quintessence International* has earned has come a surfeit of good material accepted for publication. With this large number of articles passing muster with the editorial reviewers comes another problem. Too many articles in the pipeline mean a longer time between acceptance and publication. This is unacceptable to me, as editor; to you, as readers who want fresh information; and to authors who want and need to see their work published expeditiously. Thus we find ourselves in the enviable position of being able to tighten acceptance standards even more. This will result in an even higher quality of material in *QI*.

Everyone should be pleased, as our papers will be more current and published faster. But of course there is a downside. An editor's lot is not that easy! A greater number of authors will find their articles rejected. As we try to make readers and the authors whose articles are accepted happier, and as we try to balance the goals of the publisher, a greater number of authors will find their work unacceptable for our pages. For some, rejection is an unforgettably traumatic experience; however, it should also be viewed as their chance to study reviewers' comments and improve their work so that acceptance will be easier with future work.

Thus it is appropriate to warn potential authors that from this point on articles will be more severely screened for direct clinical relevance, in addition to the quality, integrity, and rigor of the scientific, clinical, and written work.

A word about our reviewers. We use a board of section editors to review and pass on to other selected reviewers the papers submitted to us. This is a task that requires a considerable commitment in time and effort. All too frequently this effort is taken for granted. I want, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank all the section editors and reviewers for their dedicated assistance in helping improve the quality of *QI* to the present high standard. I would also like to welcome a new section editor, Frank Spear, an outstanding young practicing prosthodontist. Dr Spear will help in the reviewing and organization of the articles for our new section on esthetic dentistry — a section which we hope will provide valuable insight for practitioners into the rapidly developing world of esthetics.

Best new year wishes to all readers from the editorial staff at *Quintessence International*.



Richard J. Simonsen
Editor-in-Chief