



Editorial

Since the national reform and open policies of 1978, stomatology has developed rapidly in China. Numbers of stomatological practitioners have increased from 5,700 to about 60,000. Schools and faculties of stomatology have increased from 30 to 84, and the private dental clinics from a few to approximately 30,000 today. The enrollment of dental students has increased from hundreds to around 3,000 each year. One key laboratory and one research centre of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health respectively, and over 10 stomatological research institutes have been set up nationwide. Recently, hundreds of graduate students are recruited each year and numbers of published research papers have also increased dramatically. Meanwhile, stomatological professional journals have increased from a few to over twenty nationwide. In order to share the developments in stomatological research with international dental societies, some reputable Chinese stomatological journals have been providing abstracts in English for some years. However, it seemed that this still did not meet the desire of our international friends and colleagues to keep abreast of dental research in China. Therefore, around 10 years ago, the former Editor-in-Chief and founder of *The Chinese Journal of Dental Research*, Professor Zhen Kang ZHANG, also the former President of the Chinese Stomatological Association, suggested, as the first step, creating a journal for publishing in English the representative research papers from Chinese journals for distribution overseas. With the support of Mr. Horst-Wolfgang Haase, the President of Quintessence Publishing Co. Ltd., the first issue of *The Chinese Journal of Dental Research* was published and distributed overseas in May 1998.

Since then, the Journal has published 32 issues and 365 papers in the last nine years, with the support of the editorial boards of Chinese stomatological journals, stoma-

tological schools and faculties, dental research centres and labs, and many contributors. Through the issues, 11 reviews have covered the research developments and achievements of stomatology in China in recent years. The Journal has received much encouragement and support from international friends and dental specialists interested in the development of stomatology in China. We give our whole-hearted thanks to them for all their support.

A joint meeting between the former Editor-in-Chief, current Editor-in-Chief, and Associate Editors was held in Beijing on 8 July 2006. The achievements of the Journal in the last nine years were summarised and the publishing policy and direction for the future was discussed. It was agreed that the Journal would only accept and publish original articles from 2007 to further promote communication between the Chinese Stomatological Society and international dental societies and also to better reflect the current research achievements in China. The Journal will publish two issues in 2007 to ensure high quality, and will gradually increase the number of issues in the following years. In addition, the Journal has become the official journal of the Chinese Stomatological Association.

The Chinese Journal of Dental Research is now a peer-reviewed general dental journal and welcomes contributions from international dental researchers. We hope for even more support from dental specialists and friends in China and internationally to make this a high-quality professional journal with an influence in dentistry.

Moreover, we would like to thank Mr. Horst-Wolfgang Haase again for his support for the changes in the publishing policy of the Journal.

Editor-in-Chief, Xu Chen MA

Honorary Editor-in-Chief, Zhen Kang ZHANG