Editorial

I am very pleased to have been nominated and approved by ORCA members to be the next editor-in-chief of *Caries Research*. I will do my utmost to maintain the high academic standards of the journal during a time when, worldwide, a financial crisis is having deleterious effects on research funding. We must hope that withdrawal or reduction of governmental funding in certain countries does not have a serious effect on the number of researchers, both basic scientists and clinical researchers, engaged in oral research. Although ORCA has always fostered collaborative research, and the meeting format greatly facilitates scientific interaction, it may be that we will see greater inter- and intra-national collaboration in order to overcome these financial challenges. Such collaborations have become more important to ensure that caries research, in all its guises, continues to make advances and to maintain its pre-eminent position among the oral sciences.

We all owe Peter Shellis an enormous vote of thanks for all the hard work he put into the post of editor-in-chief. While I will be responsible for *Caries Research*, I will not act as editor-in-chief in the same manner as Peter. I have approached a group of experienced researchers who have agreed to act as associate editors. The role of the associate editors is to receive manuscripts that I pass onto them following a pre-screen by me or a statistical review by Dr. Girvan Burnside. Once the associate editors have received manuscripts they will appoint reviewers, receive reviews and make the final decision on acceptance, revision or rejection of the manuscript. This is a big change from the system Peter employed, but similar to those employed by previous editor-in-chiefs. These procedural changes have required some adjustments to the Karger online submission system, which should by now all be in place. I expect that this new approach to dealing with manuscripts will reduce the time between submission and acceptance. As always, we are in the hands of the reviewers; so I ask all reviewers to please act promptly when approached to review a paper for *Caries Research*.

I would ask that if you have questions about *Caries Research* or suggestions regarding any aspect of the journal, please get in touch with me.

David Beighton, Editor-in-Chief