Editorial

It has been a tumultuous year 2011 with natural disasters in many countries and man-made economic disasters in the 'advanced economies' of Europe and the USA. The predictions seem to be that for Europe, at least, 2012 may be no better than last year, if not worse. These adverse economic factors impact on state-funded and industrially funded research, meaning that fewer funds may be available for dental research, especially for basic scientific research. The funding of translational research, exploiting existing knowledge and producing a product for sale and profit, may overall fare better. As I wrote last year, the need for groups to co-operate to exploit and win what funds are available has not been more pressing.

Caries Research has had a very successful year, gaining the highest impact factor it has ever had. This is due to the very hard and dedicated work of my team of Associate Editors and the reviewers who would provide insight and criticism of the submitted papers. Of course, the staff at Karger present the manuscripts in a most pleasing fashion, despite the best efforts of some authors! The rejection rate is around 80%, and some authors are asked to revise papers as Short Communications to both save space and make their papers more succinct and accessible to the reader. I would like to thank all authors and everyone else for their continued support.

In 2012, *Caries Research* has changed the manuscript submission system. Gone is XpressTrack; we now have ScholarOne as the new manuscript submission system, which we hope will be more stable and provide a more appropriate platform for manuscript submission.

2012 will also see some new changes to the instructions to authors around the information required for human clinical trials. Randomized clinical trials must be registered at <http://clinicaltrials.gov/> or a similar national authority and the trial number included in the manuscript. Further data on sample size calculations must be included in all submissions. These changes are progressive and start to bring the publication requirements of *Caries Research* into best practice. Similar requirements for detailing the execution of laboratory-based research will soon follow. While such requirements, including the submission of a CONSORT statement, may seem officious, they serve to make for better clinical science and for better research.

I look forward to receiving your submitted manuscripts and wish you all the best with the review process.

Best wishes for 2012.

David Beighton, Editor-in-Chief