Editorial

I am very pleased to announce that from this issue *Caries Research* will use an electronic system to handle the manuscript submission and review processes. The chosen system (Xpresstrack) is already in use for a number of other Karger journals and has proved successful. A major advantage is that we have been able, in collaboration with Karger staff, to tailor the system to our own requirements. *Caries Research* is attracting more submissions every year, and the new system, combined with a reorganisation of the way in which manuscripts are handled, will reduce congestion in the editorial process. We hope that authors will find the submission website straightforward to use. By simplifying and speeding up communication between members of the editorial team and reviewers, the new system will improve the efficiency with which papers are processed, and this in turn will lead to a reduction in the average time taken for papers to be reviewed and should help to eliminate undue delays.

The new system will take effect immediately, although the processing of manuscripts submitted prior to the publication of this issue will be completed under the old system.

The revision of the 'Guidelines' last year improved the standard of submitted manuscripts, through the increased detail provided. More importantly, the requirements in relation to studies on human subjects brought *Caries Research* up to date in this important area. The need to declare conformity with the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki ensures that studies on human subjects pub-

lished in the journal have been conducted in accordance with modern ethical concepts. The adoption of the CONSORT statement ensures that clinical trials published in *Caries Research* will be reported with the maximum clarity. While setting up the electronic system, we have taken the opportunity to make further adjustments to the 'Guidelines for Authors'. They have been refined by adjusting a number of details, and a new paragraph on ethical conduct of experiments with animals has been included.

To ensure that the standard of *Caries Research* is maintained or improved, we have decided that it is an opportune moment to enlarge the editorial team. We have appointed Prof. Marie-Charlotte Huysmans as Associate Editor to help process papers in a field currently attracting considerable interest: the development of new diagnostic methods. A further appointment may follow.

The transition to the new system has involved a lot of work by the whole editorial team, and I would like to thank Dr. Ralph Duckworth, Dr. Ailish Hannigan, Dr. Bente Nyvad and Prof. Roy Russell for all their help. Nor could it have been accomplished without much help from the staff of our publishers, Karger AG, especially Ms. S. Ludwig, Mr. D. Hangartner and Mr. R. Müller. Their previous experience in setting the system up for other journals and their advice on working patterns have been indispensable, and they have our warmest thanks.

Peter Shellis, Editor-in-Chief