Editorial

A Fresh Look at Publications

With this issue, we are making changes that are intended to increase the variety of articles appearing in *Caries Research*. While a specialist research-orientated journal has a primary function of communicating the results of research in the field, it can also contribute to the vitality of its field in other ways. Recent discussions within the Editorial Board have resulted in two initiatives, which we are pleased to present here.

First, we are introducing a new category of paper – ‘Current topics’. This type of article is intended primarily to provide a forum for discussing subjects of emerging importance and their potential impact on caries research. However, it can also provide a place for presenting a fresh viewpoint on a problem of longer standing. In either case, the argumentation should naturally be supported by reference to the relevant literature, but the aim of the paper should be to stimulate discussion, not to provide a comprehensive review, and should be concise, in keeping with this aim. ‘Current topics’ articles should be submitted in the normal way. We will aim to have them reviewed as quickly as possible and, once they have been accepted, will give priority in publication to ensure topicality. If authors wish to discuss their article before submission, the Editorial Board will be pleased to assist.

Another way in which *Caries Research* can contribute to the flow of information in the field is to publish reviews. Although they are often under-rated, well-written reviews combining a thorough understanding of a subject with critical thought not only provide an authoritative survey of a topic but can also influence future research. *Caries Research* has published relatively few reviews in recent years, and most of these have been written at the invitation of the Editorial Board. From this issue on, reviews can be submitted without prior consultation, in the same way as an original article.

We hope that authors will find the new ‘Current topics’ category an attractive way of presenting fresh ideas and alternative viewpoints with more freedom than is available within the discipline of a research report. Equally, we hope that researchers will wish to share their experience of a field with others in caries research by contributing review articles. We would especially encourage reviews of subjects at the boundary between caries research and related fields. Such reviews can be particularly valuable by promoting a wider outlook, perhaps leading to interdisciplinary collaboration.

ORCA Abstracts

It has come to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief of *Caries Research* and of the ORCA Executive that at the 52nd ORCA Congress (Indianapolis, 2005) several posters diverged significantly from the published abstracts in the data reported, in the conclusions reached or in both. ORCA recognises that conclusions sometimes have to be modified in the light of new interpretations or because fresh evidence is obtained. At the same time the published abstracts should be a reasonably accurate record of the Congress. From this point of view it is not considered acceptable that presenters, when preparing their posters, should simply replace the previous data and conclusions with the new. If, for exceptional reasons, the data presented in the poster differ from those of the abstract, it must be clearly stated on the poster why such changes were made. The Instructions to Authors of Abstracts have been modified to make these requirements clear and at the same time to give guidance on the opportunities to revise abstracts prior to publication.

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