

Foreword

Recently, Prof. Dr. Corneliu Amariei asked me to become the new Editor in Chief of *Oral Health and Dental Management in the Black Sea Countries*. As I do not come from one of the countries that surround the Black Sea nor speak any of the languages of these countries, I was somewhat surprised but greatly flattered and honoured by the invitation. I have only been a member of the editorial board for one year and am still have much to learn about the delivery of oral health care and dental education in the countries of the Black Sea. However, I do have several years of experience as an editor and as the journal is written in English, I hope that my limitations will not be a too big a problem.

I have read the journal for the last year and have been impressed that the vast majority of authors whose work is published in the journal have English as their second, third or even fourth language. It is hard enough to write a scientific paper in your own language let alone in another one. However, in the world of academia, it is essential to publish in international, peer reviewed journals, which are listed on major databases such as *Medline* and ideally which have a high impact factor. Nearly all such journals are written partially if not totally in English.

My role will be that of an adviser and teacher. Prof. Dr Amariei will remain the driving force for the journal, as its founding and now executive editor. To use a political comparison, drawn from Germany, he will be the Chancellor, who everyone knows and who runs the country and I will be the President, who welcomes state guests and offers advice!

If the journal is to obtain a listing in *Medline* and other prestigious international scientific databases, it will be necessary to work with authors, translators, peer reviewers and editorial board members to improve the quality of the scientific (as opposed to literary) English in the papers published in the journal and to make them aware of new international guidelines for authors and their implications. These problem are not unique this journal. They are almost universal. Sadly, to date, little help for authors has been provided by the majority of journals. Nevertheless, some organisations have started to offer training. For example, the European

Association for Dental Public Health (EADPH) is running an abstract writing workshop in Prague from 6 - 8 November 2008 and the Education Research Group (ERG) of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) will be running a similar workshop during the 2009 IADR Meeting, which will be held in Miami from 1 - 4 April 2009. These workshops are a start but far more are needed, as well as training programmes for peer reviewers, translators and editors.

A number of international meetings have taken place since the last edition of this journal was published. They included the annual congress of the EADPH, which took place in Heidelberg from 4 - 6 September and the meeting of the Pan-European Federation of the IADR which took place in London from 9 - 11 September. It was pleasing that a number of colleagues from the Black Sea countries attended these meetings and presented research papers and/or chaired sessions. It was particularly impressive to see that Romania was the country that presented the highest number of abstracts during the EADPH meeting. These abstracts, along with all the others from the EADPH meeting are published in this edition of the journal. At the EADPH business meeting it was unanimously agreed to accept the offer to hold the 2010 EADPH meeting in Constanta.

As I write this foreword, along with a number of other readers of this journal, I am preparing to go to the FDI Congress in Stockholm, which takes place between 24 and 27 September. The FDI section for Dental Public Health and Chief Dental Officers meets during the congress on 26 September. It provides an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues from all round the world who have shared interests in Dental Public Health.

Highlights for next year will include the VIIth International Congress of Orofacial Public Health and Management in the Black Sea Area, which will take place between 28 and 30 May 2009, the IADR meeting in Miami from 1 - 4 April, along with the EADPH meeting, which will be in Tromsø, Norway and the FDI meeting in Singapore.

Prof. Dr. Kenneth A. Eaton
Editor in Chief