

## *Foreword*

August is traditionally a holiday month in Europe and North America. During this time dental clinicians and academics often take time off and dental clinics and university departments either close or work with fewer staff. As a result it seems that: fewer papers are submitted at this time of year, reviewers may take longer to send in their critiques and authors longer to revise their papers. To some extent this is reflected in the contents of this edition of the journal which contains six papers and the abstracts that have been accepted for the forthcoming European Association for Dental Public Health (EADPH) which is taking place in Tromsø.

This conference takes place in the first week of September at the same time as the Fédération Dentaire Internationale (FDI) conference is taking place in Singapore. In September 2010, the EADPH conference will be in Constanta. It will offer an excellent opportunity for readers of this journal to meet colleagues from around Europe without having to leave the Black Sea region. The 2010 FDI conference will be in Salvador da Bahia in Brazil, the week before the EADPH conference. The last three months have seen a redesign of the journal's website ([www.oral-health.ro](http://www.oral-health.ro)). It includes some new features that have been produced to help authors and reviewers.

Apart from the recently updated guidelines for authors, a full set of checklists for the four most commonly submitted types of paper are now on the website. They are for:

- Research papers
- In my opinion papers
- Case reports
- Systematic reviews

As mentioned in the foreword to the June edition of this journal, these checklists are for use by authors as well as by the reviewers of papers. By using the checklists, reviewers can provide authors with a detailed critique and if necessary highlight areas that need clarification

or revision. They should also be used by authors to check that the contents of their paper match the requirements of the guidelines for authors before submitting the papers. A further use for the checklists is as an aid when teaching health care workers at all levels how to critically review the scientific literature. The checklist for research papers may also be useful when planning research projects, prior to writing research protocols and seeking funding and/or ethical approval.

I have now been editor in chief of the journal for 12 months and have been lucky enough to meet a number of the authors of papers published during this time both in Romania and around the world at dental conferences. Whilst editing papers, I have also been able to speak by telephone or internet telephone, such as Skype, to a number of authors to resolve questions that have arisen. This has proved to be a most useful and cost effective way to communicate. My telephone number has been added to the journal's website. I am very happy to speak to authors. If you wish to call, please remember that the countries of the Black Sea are two hours ahead of the United Kingdom. It is best to e-mail me first to arrange a time to speak and, if internet telephony such as Skype is to be used, to exchange Skype addresses.

I am pleased to say that during the last 12 months, there has been an increase in the number of papers from authors around the world and not just from the Black Sea countries. For example, this edition contains a paper from a group based in Belgium as well as papers from authors in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the abstracts for the EADPH conference are by authors from 14 different countries.

Prof. Dr. Kenneth A. Eaton  
Editor in Chief