

Foreword

Since I took over as Editor in Chief, at the beginning of October 2008, some 80 papers have been submitted to *Oral Health and Dental Management in the Black Sea Countries (OHDMBSC)* for consideration for publication. Just under half have been accepted. However, many have required substantial revisions before they could be published. Several members of the editorial board have helped me to work with the authors concerned to improve their papers. These authors and I owe a number of the editorial board members concerned a big debt of gratitude for their help, which has often taken many hours and has been provided free of charge.

Unfortunately, a number of papers that have been submitted have contained such major flaws that they could not be improved to a level at which they could be published in an international peer-reviewed journal. I hope that the revised instructions to authors and the check-lists for various types of paper have helped all authors to understand shortcomings in their papers. These instructions and check-lists can be found on the journal's website (www.oralhealth.ro). The instructions are also published annually and can be found at the end of this edition of the journal.

As a further aid to authors, this edition of *OHDMBSC* includes an example of a poor paper (which could not be revised to a high enough standard for publication) together with a detailed critique using the check-list for research papers and a commentary. The paper has been anonymised to protect the identities of the original authors. As readers will see, it contains a number of major flaws, including a very inadequate introduction, in which only three references are cited, and a totally inadequate methods section, which provides the reader with insufficient information to repeat the study. However,

perhaps the most important failing in the paper is a grossly inadequate study design. Such failings have been common to many of the papers that have been rejected by *OHDMBSC* over the last 15 months.

In order to try to help authors to gain a better understanding of research study design, a two-day workshop will be held in Constanta on Tuesday, 7th and Wednesday, 8th September 2010, immediately before the 15th Congress of the European Association for Dental Public Health. GABA International have most kindly agreed to sponsor the workshop, details of which can be found at the congress website (www.eadph2010.ro).

In 2010, the journal will start to follow the usual pattern for page numbering papers that are published in the same year. Thus the page numbers in the second edition for 2010 will follow on from those of the first edition and so on for the third and fourth editions, rather than starting again at page 1.

This will be the final edition of the journal in 2009 and Christmas and the New Year will soon be with us. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Professor Dr. Corneliu Amariei and the technological board for all the help and support that they have given me during 2009 and to Laura Wiles, the journal's Associate Editor. I wish all the journal's readers a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010; to echo an old Spanish saying, *salud, pesetas y amor!*

Prof. Dr. Kenneth A. Eaton
Editor in Chief