

## *Foreword*

This first edition in 2011 marks another milestone for the journal. As you will have seen from the front page, it has been given the shorter title of *Oral Health and Dental Management*. This reflects the journal's ambition to reach out to subscribers around the world and not solely from the Black Sea countries. Over the last two years, far more papers from parts of the world other than the countries surrounding the Black Sea have been published than was the case during the first six years of the journal's history. The new guidelines for authors and the new International Editorial Board reflect this change. These new guidelines are published at the end of this edition and on the website. The membership of the new International Editorial Board is listed on the inside of the front cover. Sincere thanks are given to all members of the old International Editorial Board for their help and support over the first few years of the journal.

Although the combined population of all the countries that surround the Black Sea is greater than that of the United States of America (U.S.A.), to date the output of papers related to oral health from these countries has been far below that of the U.S.A., both in terms of quantity and quality. It is one of the key objectives of *Oral Health and Dental Management* to help address this imbalance. Much needs to be done. The training workshops for authors that have been held in Prague (Czech Republic) and Constanta (Romania) and the use of structured check-lists to help improve the quality of peer reviews have been a start. However, to make a real impact it will be necessary to improve the quality of research teaching in the dental schools (Faculties of Dental Medicine) so that staff members produce high-quality research and high-quality papers. To start addressing this problem, a workshop on managing dental research will be held in Prague in November 2011. The workshop

is targeted at Deans of Dental Schools (Faculties of Dental Medicine) and their Directors of Research.

At the recent annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (I.A.D.R.), held in San Diego, U.S.A., few of the delegates came from the countries that surround the Black Sea. As many research prizes were won by delegates from outside the U.S.A. as from inside but no prize-winners were from the Black Sea countries. This is a great shame as there are clearly many teachers, researchers and clinicians in the Black Sea countries who are keen to innovate and develop. The forthcoming 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Oral Health and Dental Management in the Black Sea Countries, to be held from 25 May to 3 June 2011, exemplifies these aspirations. Its themes are dental public health and diagnosis based on salivary biomarkers. The latter offers exciting opportunities for the future in many areas of medicine and not just oral medicine. It has the potential to focus far more interest on the mouth from health care workers than has been the case in the past. A satellite congress on the topics of ergonomics, prevention, and leadership and management will complement the main conference.

The leadership and management of oral health personnel is the topic of one of the papers in this edition of the journal. Last month, a delegation of Romanian oral health care workers visited London to learn of the innovative training programme on this topic that has been developed by the Faculty of General Dental Practice (UK) of The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The delegation also visited the new Portsmouth Dental Academy to assess how ergonomics are taught to dental students, dental hygienists, and dental nurses and how their training is integrated.

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