
Editorial

The Academy of Pedodontics is an organization of individuals whose primary concern is the practice, education, and research related to the specialty of pedodontics. The Academy is the sponsor of the American Board of Pedodontics and is the official representative of the specialty of pedodontics.

Over the years, the Academy has grown from one hundred members to its present membership of more than twenty-two hundred. It is appropriate that we should have our journal which will be the official organ of communication for the Academy.

The "Pedodontics Newsletter" has partially served this function for a number of years, but it has not been sufficient to disseminate scientific information and promote dialogue related to advances in pedodontics. Until now, the *Journal of Dentistry for Children* has been the official organ of communication for both the American Society of Dentistry for Children and for the American Academy of Pedodontics. However, because of the rapid expansion of knowledge in the specialty of pedodontics that has occurred in the past decade, there is sometimes a long delay before important scientific discoveries and changing clinical concepts in pedodontics are published. Therefore, it is right and timely that the *Journal* for the Academy should be available to accomplish many of the purposes and objectives of our organization.

A great deal of effort has been put into this concept over the years. Drs. Tom Barber, Don Bowers, and many others have explored the possibilities and have helped to pave part of the way. However, it was not until May 1978, that the present editor was appointed. With the complete support of the Board of Directors and the untiring efforts and personal encouragement from President Kramer, we have progressed far in a short time. I am particularly indebted to all the associate editors who have made numerous contributions, suggestions, and done much hard work to insure that we can meet our first publication deadline.

The support from the membership has also been most enthusiastic, and the response to the request for manuscripts has been very gratifying as judged by the number and quality of manuscripts already received, reviewed, and accepted.

The *Journal* will be a scholarly publication. The contents will consist largely of scientific papers. It will also include the proceedings of the annual meeting. Guest speakers will be invited to publish their presentations. We have all been impressed by the out-

standing speakers who present programs at the annual meetings, and the *Journal* will enable us to record the significant scientific presentations more precisely for the future use of our membership.

All submitted contributions will be peer reviewed by two or more referees. I am grateful for the constructive critiques given to authors by our reviewers and associate editors who have been most prompt and professional. A list of the reviewers who have critiqued the papers will be published annually to acknowledge their important contribution.

With newer dental materials and varying disease patterns, the practice of pedodontics is changing. It is important to have a section for clinical reports which will update clinical techniques and variations.

Most practitioners do not have time to read all the journals that they subscribe to and few have ready access to university libraries. Foreign or research journals are not normally subscribed to by the average practitioner. Consequently, an important section will be developed by associate editors Drs. Wright and Bawden. They will select and abstract articles from the aforementioned journals. In addition, they will add comments regarding the value and significance of such abstracted articles.

Similarly, books that are received by the editorial office will be screened for the book review section. Drs. Casamassimo and Nowak have organized this section and will invite persons to assist with book reviews. A very carefully designed format and criteria have been developed which will ensure uniformity and high quality.

The *Journal* will carry a news section with a number of designated columns. The American Board of Pedodontics will use this column to announce many activities and statistics of interest to the membership. The Dental Care Committee will have a special column to report on federal and state changes which may potentially affect pedodontic practice and education. Since the Dental Care Committee is a joint committee with the American Society of Dentistry for Children, Ms. Katherine Nathan of the ASDC will assist the chairman of the joint committee in preparing a number of these reports.

Committee chairpersons are welcome to submit news relating to their committee activities. In addition, news of regional academies, election of officers and announcements of programs will also be included.

Announcements of the annual meeting and contin-

uing education courses will be given prominent display. In between the quarterly journal issues, the "Newsletter" will continue to be published to supplement the news of the Academy.

Comments, letters to the editor, and manuscript submissions are welcome. The Instructions for Contributors are published in this issue.

The volume of advertising will be kept to a minimum in order for the *Journal* to remain scholarly and not become a commercial publication. The advertising revenue will help to defray rising costs of paper and printing. Drs. Ed Nacht and Steve Moss have been

most helpful in the business aspect of the *Journal*, and we will continue to depend upon their expertise.

The quality of the *Journal* is only as good as the quality of the contributions. We will require the wholehearted support of everyone. I am certainly very proud to be associated with this exciting venture, and I am gratified with the progress thus far. There is much talent in our Academy and the *Journal* is a fertile ground for your contributions.

STEPHEN H. Y. WEI
EDITOR