

Your *Journal*: new editorial policy and procedure

Pediatric Dentistry is the official publication of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, and the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

A relatively young publication currently in its 10th year, it has many charges, the most visible of which is the publication of original manuscripts reporting findings in basic and clinical research. The editorial department receives approximately 100 manuscripts annually. They are reviewed initially by the editor in chief and if they are determined to be of limited interest to our readers or are in a form that is not appropriate, they are rejected without being sent to referees. All other manuscripts are sent for review with author anonymity.

The *Journal* includes editorials by the editor in chief as well as guest editorials which address timely issues. In addition, the Academy membership and all readers are encouraged to communicate with our readers via letters to the editor concerning items published in *Pediatric Dentistry* and general comments about our specialty. The *Journal* also publishes abstracts of current articles in foreign and domestic medical, dental, and public health journals, particularly important articles in those journals not readily available to our readers. Periodically, we publish a special issue or theme issue such as the recent Child Abuse — *Child Neglect* special issue.

There are some unique features of *Pediatric Dentistry* as well. For example, we publish: joint reports of committees of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the American Academy of Pediatrics such as the recent sedation guidelines; *Pioneers in Pediatric Dentistry*, a series devoted to important contributors to our specialty; and reports from the

American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

We are constantly trying to improve *Pediatric Dentistry*. Each issue of the *Journal* (and the *Newsletter*) is looked at critically by a member of the Academy's Public Information Committee. These critiques are very helpful to the editor, editorial staff, and the Editorial Board in identifying ways to enhance the quality of our *Journal*.

Thanks to a recent reorganizational effort, our *Journal* will offer you even more in the future. Beginning with the Coronado Annual Session in May, the *Journal* will have an Editorial Board pending ratification of Bylaws changes to that effect. The Board consists of 12 members who have recently been approved by the Academy Trustees. Members of the Editorial Board will assist in establishing *Journal* policy submitted for approval and also will review every manuscript submitted to the *Journal*. They may submit manuscripts with subject matter outside their area of interest or expertise for review by other experts who may or may not be Academy members.

The Trustees also approved the appointment of 12 abstract editors who will prepare abstracts of current literature from specifically assigned journals, thus bringing articles of interest and importance to our readers. Also approved was the appointment of four Academy historians. They will prepare articles on topics of historical importance that should be documented in our *Journal*. Ralph Ireland was designated Historian Emeritus and will continue to write his column *Pioneers in Pediatric Dentistry*.

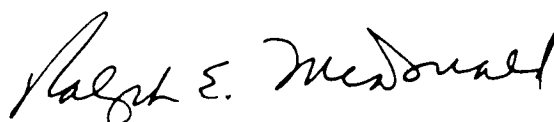
As with any journal, *Pediatric Dentistry* has both strengths and weaknesses. A number of factors contribute to the strength of our *Journal*, the primary factor being the large percentage of excellent manu-

scripts that are submitted for publication. Another strength results from the very careful review process being carried out by our dedicated referees. Most manuscripts are returned to the authors for review of the comments made by the referees and possible revision, a process that is a form of continuing education.

A weakness of the *Journal*, viewed by some members of the Academy, is that we are not publishing enough manuscripts dealing with clinical techniques. The primary reason for this deficiency is that we do not receive many manuscripts of this type. Consequently, I would like to encourage our readers to submit case reports as well as clinical techniques that they have found to be successful in their practices.

Another weakness relates to the frequency of the *Journal* — currently four issues each year. It is hoped that when our publication budget permits, the number of issues can be increased to six, with an occasional special issue.

As we consider ways to improve the quality of our published articles, I am reminded of the statement that was made many years ago at one of our early Academy meetings by Life Member Maury Massler: "I would not consider submitting a manuscript for publication until it had been reviewed by six of my most severe critics."



Foreign deliveries now shipped via air

Foreign subscribers to *Pediatric Dentistry* are receiving their issues faster than ever before! As a benefit to our readers in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, we are now using the International Surface Air Lift (ISAL) bulk mailing system to deliver the *Journal* much faster at no extra cost to you. Depending on the destination, the time from printer to subscriber has been reduced substantially — from two months in some cases to only 7-16 days! And, not surprisingly, we have noticed a marked decrease in the number of nondelivery claims.

Pediatric Dentistry is flown on domestic air transportation from the city of entry to the gateway in New York where it is airlifted to the country of destination. At the foreign destination the *Journal* is processed and delivered by the foreign postal administration as regular surface mail.

From A (Albania, Algeria, and Australia) to Z (Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), more than 100 countries are included in this world-wide delivery service and we are delighted to offer this valuable service to you at absolutely no extra cost.