

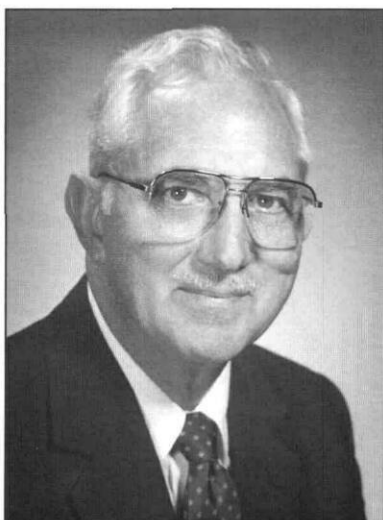
Past, Present, and Future

SOME WHO READ THIS ISSUE of the journal will recall that for a decade and a half prior to 1977 the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the Academy discussed the desirability and feasibility of publishing a scientific journal in the Academy's name.

Finally, in 1977, a financial commitment was made to publish *Pediatric Dentistry* on a quarterly basis. There were those members of the Academy who questioned if this new publication, in what they considered to be a field including an already abundant number of scientific journals, could survive and flourish. But survive it did. Credit for our journal's early acceptance goes to our first editor, Stephen H.Y. Wei, and subsequently to our interim editor, Paul Casamassimo. The task was not easy, since considerable effort was required in the solicitation of manuscripts to fill the early issues.

In June, 1983, your current editor posed this question in an editorial: "Who's journal is this?" This seemed to be a logical question as he assumed his responsibilities as editor in chief. It was his view that although the officers, trustees, and editorial board members all have a definite interest in the journal, the journal belongs to the members of the Academy. This fact is true today. The members of the Academy have responded through the submission of increasing numbers of manuscripts, letters to the editor, and communications that are placed in the Forum and Comments sections of our journal.

The success that our journal has enjoyed during the past eight years also is related directly to the excellent, competent editorial staff in our Chicago office. Equal credit goes to our editorial board members and the abstract editors who serve faithfully on a



continuing basis, largely without recognition. Few of our readers realize the hours spent by editorial board members in reviewing manuscripts, and for the help and guidance they give authors when manuscript revision is necessary — an overload for these already busy people.

The quality of manuscript submission has improved continually during the past eight years, and this has resulted in a greatly increased number of accepted manuscripts awaiting publication. Even on the new bimonthly publication schedule, most manuscripts appearing in this

issue of the journal were given final acceptance in September and October 1989.

What does the future hold for our specialty and for our journal? Those who have read some of my recent editorials know that I am extremely optimistic about the future opportunities in pediatric dentistry, be they in practice, teaching, or research. The future of our journal is secure, and I relinquish my responsibilities to a competent new editor, editorial board, and editorial staff. I hope that the officers and trustees will not be satisfied with the journal's status quo, but instead, begin planning for the future. The growth and prestige of our journal and our specialty can be enhanced with a monthly publication. I urge the new officers and trustees to plan and seek sources of a financial commitment for this expansion and the eventual naming of a full-time editor in chief based in our Chicago office.

The opportunity to serve as editor in chief of *Pediatric Dentistry* during the past eight years has been a rewarding and stimulating part of my professional career. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

A.S. McDowell

Tract to the Future, Part II

I SHOULD BE GOOD AT THIS, since I've been here once before when interim editor in 1982. Then editor Stephen H.Y. Wei passed on the reins, and I found it difficult at that time to provide the membership with an adequate assessment of his accomplishments and contributions.

Today the task is a little easier, with the advantage of a broader time span and my own experience with *Pediatric Dentistry*. As its new editor and as a clinician and educator, I've been affected by this journal and its high quality in many ways.

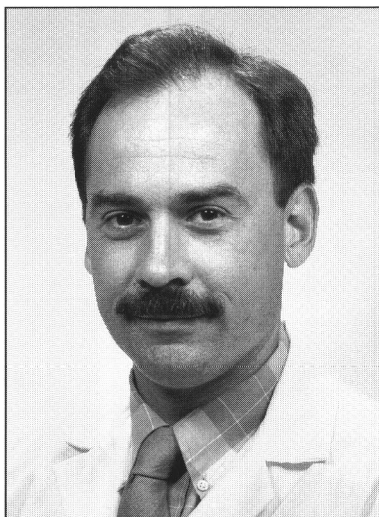
- *Pediatric Dentistry* is a plum among dental publications. The abundant supply of high quality manuscripts already accepted, the provocative titles under review, the competent and skilled production staff, the state-of-the-art electronic support, and the reputation of *Pediatric Dentistry* are a testimony to Dr. McDonald's efforts.

- I've used the information I've found in our journal to improve my own care of children. The art and science of *Pediatric Dentistry* has had an impact on me as a practitioner.

- As I update reading lists for graduate courses and compare these with those of past years, the number of articles from *Pediatric Dentistry* increases. Look at the reading list of the American Board, and you'll see the same thing.

If this pediatric dentist's experience is an indication of the experiences held by the rest of us Ralph, you can be proud. You've left us a tool and a body of knowledge we can rely on, as well as a vital legacy of excellence.

My goals for the journal include continuing to showcase good clinical research in pediatric dentistry. I envy the position of editors whose journals directly affect the day-to-day care of patients, and if *Pediatric Dentistry* doesn't do the same, I've not done my job.



Well-designed clinical studies, useful bench research, new perspectives on care of individual cases, and needed updates on topics of practical significance also are important to the above goal. *Pediatric Dentistry* is a forum for change in pediatric dental care, so look for topics that provoke thought, both philosophic and scientific. The overriding theme for my term as editor will be the care and welfare of children.

I need a larger editorial board to add to the involved members who have assisted Ralph. Involvement of the membership is another of my goals, so if you want to help, let me

know. Our first job is to develop a strategic plan to guide the journal over the next few years. From this plan may come new sections and new roles, but most importantly a continuing commitment to address the contemporary issues of our specialty, to portray evolving areas of the science of pediatric dentistry, and to improve the dental health of children.

Our journal should shape the specialty of pediatric dentistry by providing the latest in knowledge. My role is to make *Pediatric Dentistry* serve the membership but not as another "throw-away," competing for a readership already beset by professional literature full of passing fads and biased testimonials. A scientific journal is successful continuing education if it forces us to think, rather than thinks for us.

The future is today, and we can build on an exciting past.

Paul Casamirio M.D., M.S.