

The Last Editorial

Colleagues: On 30 June of this year, I will conclude my term as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of the *Journal of Prosthodontics*. It has been a distinct privilege, and an incredible honor, to have served the College and the *Journal* over the past 15 years in this capacity. Below, I've highlighted some of the many improvements in the *Journal of Prosthodontics* during my tenure as EIC:

- April 1, 2003: First day as Editor-in-Chief
- Summer 2003: Through comprehensive RFP process, identify Wiley Publishing (at the time Blackwell) to be our new publisher; effective January 2004
- August 2003: Recruit and hire Alethea Gerding as Managing Editor
- Spring 2004: All back content of *JoP* placed online
- Spring 2004: Initiate Editorial Review Board
- Summer 2004: Move to ScholarOne for complete online manuscript submission, review, editing
- 2005: Due to increased submissions, increased publication frequency from 4 to 6 issues annually
- 2008: Cover redesign completed
- 2008: Due to increased submissions, increased publication frequency from 6 to 8 issues annually
- June 2011: Announcement that the *Journal of Prosthodontics* will be granted an impact factor for first time
- 2012: Begin to offer journal-based CE
- 2014: Associate Editor-in-Chief position created by ACP Board of Directors
- 2015: Journal articles first offered as part of annual NPAW activities
- 2015: First annual virtual issue
- 2017: JOPR impact factor rises to 1.492, 45/90 dental journals
- 2018: Due to increased submissions, and backlog of accepted manuscripts, publication frequency increases from 8 to 9 issues annually, and increased by an additional 10 pages per issue
- June 30, 2018: Last day as Editor-in-Chief

What you probably don't realize is the incredible growth experienced by the *Journal* during this time. When I assumed the role as EIC, we were receiving approximately 80 to 90 manuscripts annually. Now, we're receiving over 600, and are on track to top 700 this calendar year. As I look back over the past 15 years as EIC, I'd have to say my greatest achievements were the following:

- Recruiting and hiring Ms. Alethea Gerding as Managing Editor of the *JoP*. Alethea is really the heart and soul of the *Journal*, and has always performed at the highest levels for us! She is truly an expert on journal management, is the ScholarOne expert, and has always been a tremendous attribute to the *JoP*, and to the College.
- Recruiting an incredible cast of Section Editors, both past and present. My most sincere thanks to current Section Editors, Drs. Larry Breeding (who will retire along with me this June), Hugh Devlin, Carl Drago, Debra Haselton, Zvi Loewy, Galen Schneider, Sharon Siegel, Hai Zhang, Brad Morris, and our statistician, Ceib Phillips. And to those who have served in the past: Drs. Steve Bayne, Mike McCracken, and Cortino Sukotjo. These Section Editors do the bulk of the "heavy lifting" along with Alethea, and have distinguished themselves as being incredibly professional, highly empathetic, and dedicated and motivated to making the *Journal* the world-class publication that it has become. I will be forever grateful for the support, and dedication, that each of you has shown to me and to the *JoP*. You've each made my job as EIC easier.
- Being able to pass the torch to Dr. Radi Masri this July 1. Dr. Masri is incredibly talented, and will help move the *Journal of Prosthodontics* is in the most capable hands, and will continue to excel as one of the pre-eminent prosthodontics journals.

In conclusion, I would also like to thank the American College of Prosthodontists Board of Directors, who selected me to serve in this role on April Fool's Day, 2003! They asked me to fill some pretty large shoes left by Editor Emeritus Dr. Ken Stewart, and our second EIC, Dr. Patrick Lloyd. It's easy to look good when you can stand on the shoulder of giants in the field, and follow in their footsteps. Ken and Patrick set the journal on the path to excellence, and they should be thanked for their incredible insights, and efforts, to do so. Again, it has been an honor to serve as the third Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Prosthodontics*, as this has truly been one of the highlights of my academic career.

Thank you for the opportunity.
Sincerely,

David A. Felton, DDS, MS, FACP
Immediate-past Editor-in-Chief