

**B**eginning with Volume 3, Number 1, *Pediatric Dentistry* will have a new cover design, table of contents, and other improvements. Changes such as these have evolved over the past two years as the editorial staff, in consultation with the Publication Committee, the Associate Editors, and the Board of Directors, have sought to develop a scholarly and professional journal worthy of the Academy membership.

The concept of an Academy journal had been discussed more than 10 years prior to its inception in March, 1979. The publication of an Academy journal was discussed at the 23rd Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. At that meeting, the Board of Directors passed a resolution favoring the publication of an Academy journal; they pointed out that all other dental specialty organizations published journals. Nearly 10 years later, *Pediatric Dentistry* made its debut.

During the preceding two years, we have learned a great deal and have accumulated experience which will serve us well in the years ahead. We are reasonably satisfied with our editorial policies as well as the mechanism for manuscript review. I am very pleased with our editorial staff, particularly the work of Mr. John Ferguson, Managing Editor, whose invaluable help has made my task a lot lighter and more enjoyable.

Some of the improvements that we will make in the future are as follows:

**Contents:** In addition to the many changes in our typography and format, we have included a new section, *Dental Education*, and welcome contributions from all dental educators. We continue to maintain very rigorous standards of acceptance for papers submitted to the journal. Fortunately, we have been receiving manuscripts at a steadily growing pace, yet without developing such a backlog that papers are not published in a reasonable length of time. The use of color plates will be considered when resources permit.

**Supplements:** A number of supplements similar to *The Hospital Guidelines for Pediatric Dentistry* (published as the first supplement, Volume 2, Number 1), are now being planned. The *International Symposium on Periodontal Disease and its Prevention in Children and Adolescents* will be our second supplement. As more resources and grants are made available, these publications will become an important part of the *Pediatric Dentistry* family of publications.

**Associate Editors:** We plan to expand our Board of Associate Editors who will have a renewable, three-year term of office. This will encourage a wider participation by the membership and draw on the expertise and scholarship of a broader base of the Academy.

**Subscriptions:** We are pleased with the more than 150 current library subscriptions to our journal, and hope to increase that number rapidly in the years ahead as more and more libraries, dental schools, and hospitals throughout the world become aware of our existence. We are planning a direct mail subscription drive and are also developing special bulk-mail subscriptions for specialty groups at reduced subscription rates. We also plan to advertise in other journals in order to reach greater numbers of professionals who are not presently members of the Academy.

I believe that we have come through the difficult early stages of journal development. During this period we have been sustained by the unstinting support of the Board of Directors, the membership, and compliments received from the academic and practicing dental communities.

We continue to welcome your input: *Pediatric Dentistry* is an important Academy enterprise which should provide an avenue for dissemination of your best scholarly and clinical work, a forum for discussion of the important issues facing pedodontics today, and a vehicle for open communication within the Academy, as well as dentistry at large.

