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Editor's report

This is my final report as editor of the *European Journal of Orthodontics* (*EJO*).

I was appointed as editor in Venice in 1993. As the new appointee I followed on from a small group of successful editors including John Cook, William Houston and Richard Mills. John Cook first started the European Journal in 1979 when it replaced the previously published *Transactions of the European Orthodontic Society*. In 1979 the first issue of the *EJO* consisted of 286 pages and 29 articles in four issues; compare that to 2009. Thirty years later, there were six issues consisting of 668 pages and 97 articles (an increase of 330 per cent).

Bill Houston had been in post for just over 3 years when, following his untimely death in 1991, Dick Mills was appointed as editor.

There have been significant advances and additional work that the journal has had to deal with. The most challenging was that of the abstracts of the congress. It was decided by Council that the abstracts of the presentations be produced in the EJO in order that those who do not attend the Congresses could see the work and data presented. Initially this began as camera ready copy; technology soon took hold meaning that abstracts could be edited. In 1998 this resulted in 157 abstracts (58 orals and 99 posters) which were modified to ensure the language flowed and lead to an increase to 762 pages. The last production of abstracts in the journal was 2004 in Århus when 69 oral presentations and 169 posters were published. This did not represent ALL the abstracts submitted; the Council supported the editor, concerned that inclusion of abstracts not as robust in terms of scientific writing, would dilute the 'impact factor' of the journal and allowed the concept of a 'Congress Poster' to develop. The task of identifying which abstracts to include and those that should only appear in the Congress booklet fell to the Scientific Committee. There are often up to 700 abstracts to consider all requiring editorial adjustment. The abstracts are now available online and searchable, but they are no longer published in the EJO.

Other developments have included the supplement containing papers previously published for the 100 year celebration of the Society and research of the history of the Society from 1907 to 2007 resulting in the production of a disk that was distributed to all members.

All these tasks have presented unique challenges but more importantly have provided a personal source of satisfaction not least because I have had to work with many diverse individuals.

My thanks have to go to all the editorial board and referees both past and present, the unsung heroes of any journal's success, and the assistant editors that I have worked with including Susan Cunningham, Theodore Eliades, Robert Evans and Ama Johal.

And finally no one can ever provide sufficient praise for Sue Austin, who has been the editorial assistant for the last three editors and who will also be leaving the journal; the phrase 'it could not have been run without her' often echoes.

One minor aspect of the journal relates to finance; we do not charge for journal pages, colour is often provided free of charge, and for the last few years the journal has changed from a cost pressure to the Society to providing a profit.

I hand over the editorship EJO to David Rice. I wish him well and I know whilst there are many challenges he will continue the long established traditions of the journal.

From the 1st September 2010 articles can be submitted online at: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ejo

Fraser McDonald