

Letters to the Editor

Sir,
I read with interest the recent paper by Harrison *et al.*, 1996. However, I must take exception to the comment "Editorial policy may influence the type of papers which are accepted . . . (Personal communication – F. McDonald, 1995)".

Ms Harrison wrote to the European Journal of Orthodontics in 1995 as follows:

"As part of my PhD, in which I am examining the methodological aspects of randomised clinical trials, and in the light of call for more rigorous research methods to be applied to orthodontics, I have undertaken an analysis of the papers published recently in orthodontic journals. I have assessed the type, subject and methodology used in published papers.

In order to aid my discussion of the results, I would be grateful if you could advise me on the editorial policy of the European Journal of Orthodontics regarding the type and subject of papers which you will consider for publication in this journal.

I would also like to know whether you would consider a paper for publication which defines and describes different research methodologies and how current orthodontic research fits into these methods".

My reply was as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of the 19th April.

The European Journal of Orthodontics does not operate any specific policy with regard to methodological aspects of research. *Each article is considered entirely on its own merits.* The paper you have outlined, if submitted, would be independently refereed but I must also warn that review articles are subject to stricter criteria than experimental papers".

I do not consider, in view of my reply or the recent editorial in the European Journal of Orthodontics, that the conclusions reached concerning the editorial policy of the European Journal of Orthodontics are justified.

FRASER McDONALD
Editor,
European Journal of Orthodontics,
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Dear Sir,

re: Correspondence from Dr F. McDonald about "An analysis of papers published in the British and European Journals of Orthodontics"

We would like to thank Dr McDonald for his letter related to our recent paper in which we made the comment "*Editorial policy may influence the type of papers which are accepted for publication and correspondence with the editors concerned suggests that this is possible (R. J. Edler, 1995, personal communication; F. McDonald, 1995, personal communication).*"

In April 1995 JEH wrote identical letters to Dr McDonald and Mr Edler regarding the editorial policy of the *EJO* and the *BJO* respectively. The reply received from Dr McDonald was as he states in his letter. The reply received from Mr Edler was very detailed listing some eight or so categories of papers/articles that the *BJO* was prepared to publish.

In light of the very different responses from the editors of the *BJO* and the *EJO* we came to the conclusion that the editorial policies of the two journals were different and that this may account for some of the differences in the range of papers/articles which were published in the two journals. We hope that this clarifies the situation that the comment we made in the paper was not attributable to Dr McDonald but made as a result of comparing the replies we received from both the editors concerned.

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28th November 1996

References

- Harrison, J. E., Ashby, D. and Lennon, M. A. (1996)**
An analysis of papers published in the British and European Journals of Orthodontics,
British Journal of Orthodontics, **23**, 203–209.
- McDonald, F. (1996)**
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European Journal of Orthodontics, **18**, p. 1.