

Editorials

Publish and Excel

Publication of articles in peer-reviewed journals is an intrinsic and inevitable component of undertaking research in science. Charles Darwin quoted "A naturalist's life would be happy one if he had only to observe and never to write." Today's clinicians must write not just to let the world know what they have done, but often to survive (promotions and career development) and thrive (competitive grants and awards).

Publish or perish is the order of the day in the present world of academics. But let us not consider the above words just as a means for academic advancement and tenure of individuals in academia. Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals can be done by every clinician or dentist to share their work experiences among fellow colleagues. It also develops research knowledge and refines writing skills.

The most crucial decision often for every author writing a scientific article is where to publish. Today we have many peer-reviewed journals in dentistry. The choice of journal is dependent on the aim and scope of the journal. The Journal of Dentistry and Oral Hygiene publishes general criteria of significance and scientific excellence in dentistry, oral health and hygiene. The journal invites all potential authors to contribute scientific manuscripts. They may be of comprehensive and critical reviews, regular research articles, short communications and opinion pieces.

Margaret Fuller said, "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." Peer-reviewed dental literature builds and fortifies the knowledge base. Hence publishing and keeping abreast with the literature contributes in improving clinical and research skills.

It is my pleasure and privilege to write the maiden editorial for The Journal of Dentistry and Oral Hygiene. I thank the journal's committee for nominating me as an editor and will strive to do my best to achieve high standards for the journal. In my opinion, the saying "Publish or Perish" may be construed as rather callous; perhaps "Publish and *Excel*" would be more encouraging, and fruitful, to the profession-at-large.

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