

A new chapter for *The Angle Orthodontist*

By David L. Turpin, Editor

It is a humbling experience to follow Raymond C. Thurow as Editor of *The Angle Orthodontist*. His years of service to the specialty leave a void not easily filled.

Appointed as Editor by the Research and Education Foundation of the Edward H. Angle Society, I see my challenge as one of continuing the quest for excellence in dental journalism. To me this means experimentation and change in both appearance and content of the Journal.

Three objectives of good design underlie the obvious changes in this issue of the *The Angle Orthodontist*; a desire to present material in a contemporary environment, to communicate a specific image and to encourage reading of the entire publication. According to Dr. Jack Sissors, Professor in the School of Journalism, Northwestern University, "The average person will decide in five one-hundredths of a second whether or not to read an article. Design is very important ... second only to content."

Content in any publication is of greatest importance. In the case of a scientific publication, content should be based on principles of the scientific method, which when followed, increase the likelihood of valid and reliable findings. Although science starts with observations and the recording of data, it is basically concerned with finding patterns of facts and, in particular, with identifying patterns that recur. It is through understanding such patterns that we gain the capacity to predict the future.

The classification of facts and the recognition of their sequence and relative significance is a

function of the scientific method. The habit of forming a judgment on these facts, unbiased by personal feeling, is characteristic of what may be called the scientific frame of mind. The refinement of this method of research over the years has been responsible for solving a number of biologic mysteries.

Principles of ethics will guide decisions made regarding content of *The Angle Orthodontist*. A search for the truth demands getting the facts right as well as being honest and direct with sources. In an effort to be consistent and fair to all consultants, a policy of anonymity will be applied to both author and reviewer during the review process. The Editor will, on request of the reviewer, reveal the names of the authors. The name of the reviewer will not be revealed to the author without permission of the reviewer. As stated in Edmund Lambeth's *Committed Journalism*, the professional freedom of the Editor is based upon having a responsible, emotionally detached independence.

In this role, the Editor's main function is that of enhancing communication between author and reader. I will do this with the aid of consultants as well as a biostatistician.

The Angle Orthodontist will be expanded in content to include a clinically oriented feature article in every issue, letters to the editor, a special case report, news and comments as well as editorials and original research articles. To better understand the reasons for including each one of these components, let's have a closer look at them.

Editor's Comments

All editorials are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Edward H. Angle Society. Subject matter will deal with both clinical and political issues of current interest to orthodontists. Guest editorials are welcome and provide opportunity for a wide range of viewpoints.

Feature Article

The feature article based on clinical findings will be the cornerstone of each issue. As material is developed, this section may be a clinical research paper or a synthesis of ideas on a specific subject by appropriate authorities. Possible areas of interest include temporomandibular joint therapy, postretention change, postsurgical stability, multidisciplinary orthodontic care, etc. The goal is to communicate all that is known on a topic of clinical interest in a precise, succinct and powerful way. It is not an easy goal. But it is an attainable one.

Scientific Papers

The Angle Orthodontist is a refereed publication with an advisory board and numerous other consultants. All scientific manuscripts are reviewed by two or more independent referees, in addition to the Editor, and are accepted for publication after satisfying criteria for content, methodology and clinical application. The magazine's international following dictates that manuscripts selected for publication be useful and interesting to all practicing orthodontists. Authors should consult "Instructions for Contributors" which appears in every issue.

Letters

Perhaps the most widely read department of any publication, the letters to the editor section presents an opportunity to criticize, clarify or commend. *The Angle Orthodontist* encourages this dialogue and will publish any reasonable letter as long as it is neither defamatory nor anonymous. Take this opportunity to be heard . . . and write now.

Case Reports

The case report selected for each issue will include additional information about a specific condition that influences the eventual plan of treatment. In this issue, fibrous dysplasia is the uncommon finding that alters the approach to treatment by a clinician. When you identify such a case in your practice please contact *The Angle Orthodontist* and we'll help decide how to present the diagnostic records so that all clinicians can benefit from your experience.

As you explore a redesigned journal, ask how it can be strengthened. Encourage a fellow scientist or clinician to submit a manuscript for review. Look through your records for that unique case, evaluate treatment alternatives and prepare it for publication. We will gladly photograph original diagnostic records following submission. *The Angle Orthodontist* is your publication, founded in 1930 by co-workers of Edward H. Angle. Your involvement is essential to fulfill the expectations of those who preceded us in building a tradition of innovation and excellence.