Becoming part of the game

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We have a main goal: making ISOM become a recognized international journal that attracts authors to submit their high-class publications. Before we start drawing the roadmap we have to ask “Where do we stand at the moment, how far are we away from our goal, and how do we get there?”

ISOM has a solid executive and personnel foundation, including the publisher, the Springer Verlag, the editorial board, the associate editors, our kind authors and reviewers, and the Editors-in-Chief. We have successfully established the complex process that defines the steps from the recipient of a manuscript to the printing of an article. This is the mechanistic basis of scientific publishing. Moreover, we have recently improved this process by implementing the Editorial Manager in our work. This tool basically allows handling of manuscripts and communication with authors and reviewers via the Internet, which is state of the art in all renowned journals. However, it requires more than this foundation to have ISOM become recognized.

Based on this groundwork, pillars have been erected that carry the scientific content of our journal. Since ISOM was established in 2008, two pillars carried the main load of scientific communication: masticatory function and occlusion medicine. However, ISOM was always oriented toward a broader view of dentistry—looking at the intrinsic relationship between the different disciplines in dentistry, and the extrinsic relationship between dentistry and general medicine. Considering that these relationships are also bi-directional and thus highly complex but exciting, a third pillar was put in place: interdisciplinary dentistry. Together, these three pillars which are the aims and scope of ISOM—interdisciplinary dentistry, masticatory function and occlusion medicine—make ISOM open to a broad range of articles for publication.

What define a recognized journal are probably the same criteria that define any recognized publication. We live in a work environment where agreement by objectives has become a common management strategy. Thus, success has to be measurable. In science, agreement by objectives means that the value of a publication has to become measurable. The key performance indicator is the “Impact Factor”. The Impact Factor has achieved widespread use for rating the quality of a journal, and consequently, the quality of the papers in that journal. The Impact Factor is based on the number of citations of papers in a given journal over a 2-year period divided by the number of articles published by the journal. Where does ISOM stand at the moment? We are currently not part of the game; however, we are making great efforts to come into play.

ISOM is already an attractive journal. ISOM offers a broad range of scientific topics that fall into the scope of scientific journals, including the steadily growing importance of interdisciplinary dentistry. Moreover, we keep the editorial process short, permitting rapid publication, and peer-reviewing may help younger authors to improve their work. The Springer Verlag produces high-quality hard-copy publications and digital versions that can be downloaded from the homepage, from all over the world at any time. Thus, articles in ISOM reach a large audience. These facts, together with our vision to publish innovative and clinically relevant work, will steadily improve the recognition of ISOM. Recognition means that papers published in ISOM will receive citations. If we follow our vision, ISOM will ultimately become part of the game.

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