



A tough act to follow!

A discerning reader will note that the signature at the bottom of this paragraph is new and different. It is not that of Paul Casamassimo, long-time editor of the journal. After seven years as Editor in Chief, in addition to six months as Acting Editor, Paul will be moving on to other challenges. Foremost in his mind always has been the quality of the journal and, in that regard, he was most successful. That our journal is internationally recognized as the leading journal in pediatric dentistry is due to Paul's efforts. He spent many hours not only editing but also rewriting whole manuscripts to make them suitable for publication. In forty-five editorials he cajoled and gently nudged our membership to consider a wide variety of subjects. He made the case for standards of care, advocated for special patients, promoted infant dental care programs, tackled sedation guidelines issues, and sounded the alert to changing demographics in our specialty. One of my favorites is Paul's editorial "Hooked" in which he dramatized the problems of children with baby bottle tooth decay. He likened the disease to substance abuse and advocated, "Just say no to BBTD".

Some months ago this journal conducted a readership survey of its members. 1,048 survey forms

were returned and readers gave the journal a glowing report. Eighty-seven percent rated the journal as good or very good, 65% suggested that the journal was better or much better than other professional journals, 80% read the journal in one month or less after receipt, and 63% read more than half of each issue. While the quality of the journal depends on the efforts of authors, reviewers, members of the editorial board, and a dedicated headquarters staff, it is also due to the efforts of Paul's leadership.

Paul Casamassimo not only guided the journal, but also assisted with other publications, for example, the Reference Manual and the Handbook. In addition, he provided long years of leadership to the Academy as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees. After a brief sojourn with a fishing rod in hand and some solitude, he will take up a new responsibility as Secretary-Treasurer of our organization. We wish him well in all of his future endeavors. His will be a tough act to follow!

Milton I. Houpt, Editor in Chief Elect