

# EDITORIAL

When invited to write an editorial for Journal of Research in Dentistry I was delighted and at the same time challenged to deliver some really meaningful message. It is not an easy task. Beyond the usual verbiage and instead of dropping a few words on broadly discussed research topics or future trends, I would rather provide food for thought for reflection on what to expect in the field of dental research and most importantly what to expect from the contribution that our community is providing to the next generations. As JRD is becoming more and more international, it shall unceasingly welcome submissions from abroad, and it is thrilled to see those originated from fruitful collaboration at different levels, including those from our citizens and the research community overseas. And hands down, Brazil ranked in second in the number of peer-reviewed publications in the dental field, and has been maintaining this position since 2006, right below the United States. Not surprising, Brazil is the most powerful leader in Latin America, being responsible for nearly 90% of dental publications (source: SCImago). Whereas impressive at a first glance, the first reflection comes actually as a question: How proportional is this exciting number to the quality of our publications? In general, this can be individually tracked by citations which is a rough, but one very honest picture of ourselves, work, and career. And aside from the basic sciences, when the clinical fields endeavor on laboratory research, not rarely, researchers working for 10 years or more in the same research topic and yielding negligible citation of such work, should become the first guest of this reflection task. In this specific scenario, either their work is not well understood by the community, or it is of limited relevance to the companies research and development departments, or their final deliverables pain at translating meaningfully to the clinics, or they simply represent comparisons of A + B without addressing relevant concepts with powerful testing and analysis. The second thought, also a question, is actually aimed to encourage further action and is: How open are we for continued learning in the true sense of even enrolling as postdocs, more than once during the course of our careers, in different universities, to enhance research skills, foreign language proficiency, cultural exchange, and C.V.? At the end, if one is focused on not who they would like to be, or where they want to be, but instead on how much they would like to add, a great and true value could be summed to the literature, clinics, academia, community and most importantly to the patients. It is up to us, and it is doable as long as we embrace a multidisciplinary approach including collaborations outside dentistry, where translational research can be effectively consolidated, and innovation, a rare result in the dental literature, can become a tangible goal.

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