From the Editor

Editorial: Communicate!

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Editorial

Communicate!

This issue of the Journal introduces a new feature in the form of "Letters to the Editor." From this modest beginning, it is our objective to establish a two-way communication format which will result in greater reader participation in the Journal content. You are invited to critique the Journal and let us know your reactions, whether they are negative or positive. We will also welcome suggestions as to future articles.

In addition to "Letters to the Editor" you will find a case study presented for your review. One of the common reactions of patients and detractors of oral myology is -- "tongue thrust, so what?" While case studies cannot document cause and effect, they can indicate correlations that point toward hypotheses for researchers to test. If we are convinced that myofunctional therapy does make a "significant difference," then let's share some of the more dramatic cases with our readers.

This means using objective, measurable, and replicable data. Indices used for measurement should be standardized and named in the data summary. Because the oral myologist usually works with a dental team, these professionals can be utilized as resources for baseline information. Orthodontists, oral surgeons, and periodontists usually keep meticulous records which could become available upon request. For the therapist who does not have access to measurement equipment, these same professionals could be asked to supply the post-intervention data. In this research-oriented era, it is no longer sufficient to rely on subjective, anecdotal information. If we really believe that something positive happens as a result of our efforts, then let's document carefully without bias, then share the results with the researchers and the rest of the world.