

Three Years on: An Honest Account of the European Journal of Stomatology, Oral and Facial Surgery

David Serrano Faustino Ângelo ^{*1,2,3,4,5,6}

¹ Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Stomatology, Oral and Facial Surgery, Lisbon, Portugal

² Instituto Português da Face, Lisbon, Portugal

³ Centre for Rapid and Sustainable Product Development, Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, Portugal

⁴ Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

⁵ Department of Stomatology, Egas Moniz Hospital - Local Health Unit of Western Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

⁶ University Clinic of Stomatology, Local Health Unit of Santa Maria, Lisbon, Portugal

Three years ago, in October 2023, I took on the role of Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Stomatology, Oral and Facial Surgery (EJSOFS). This issue marks that anniversary, and it is a natural moment of reflection: what we have built, where we still fall short, and where the journal must go next.

An editorial of this kind is easily turned into a list of achievements. I would rather offer an honest account. Our readers, authors and reviewers deserve to know not only what has worked, but what we intend to change.

The journal in numbers

Since our first issue, published on 28 June 2024, EJSOFS has published four issues, in three volumes, with 20 articles in total. All numbers in this editorial are reported to 30 September 2026.

We received 67 submissions: 13 in 2024, 28 in 2025 and 26 in 2026. The acceptance rate was 62% in 2024, 50% in 2025 and 25% in 2026, while the share of submissions rejected without external review rose from 15% to 17% and then to 42%. The journal has become more selective.

The average time from submission to first decision was 11 days in 2024, 84 days in 2025 and 124 days in 2026. That trend is moving in the wrong direction, and it is one of the things we intend to change.

None of this would have been possible without our reviewers, who give their time to the journal; 356 are now registered on our platform. The most read article in this period was “Management of Sodium Hypochlorite Extravasation to the Maxillary Sinus: Bridging Dentistry and Medicine: Case Series”, by Cunha Coutinho et al., with 6457 views (abstract views plus PDF downloads).

An honest diagnosis

The numbers also show our main weakness. Of the 24 articles we published, 11 (46%) were case reports, and only 4 (17%) were original research.

Case reports have real value. They document rare presentations, unusual complications and new techniques, and they are often a young clinician’s first publication. But a journal built mostly on case reports cannot shape clinical practice. Practice changes with series, cohorts and comparative studies, and those are what we must attract.

This is not a criticism of our authors. It reflects where a young journal stands, and it is the challenge for the next three years.

Raising the standard

More original research only helps if it is well reported. From the next issue, we will ask authors to follow the recognised reporting guidelines: CARE for case reports, STROBE for observational studies and CONSORT for randomised trials. Reviewers will be asked to check against them.

One area deserves particular attention: complications. In my own reviewing for this journal, the most frequent problems were not in the surgery itself. They were complications left unreported, and conclusions that went further than the data allowed.

A surgical paper that does not report its complications is incomplete. We will encourage authors to report them systematically, graded with an accepted system such as the Clavien-Dindo classification. Reporting a complication honestly is not a weakness; it is what allows the next surgeon to avoid it.

The road ahead

Our next concrete goal is indexation. The first step is an application to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), which we are preparing. Inclusion in DOAJ would make our articles easier to find and would prepare the ground for indexation in the major databases.

Indexation is not won by the editors alone. It depends on what we publish, and on how professionally we do it. So I end with a direct invitation to our readers:

- Send us your original studies, including retrospective series and multicentre data.
- Send us negative results and complications; they are as useful as successes.
- Offer to review. A strong reviewer base is what makes a journal credible.
- Read what other renowned national and international journals publish. Learn from them. Notice what they report, and how they report it.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the editorial team, Carla de Sousa and Gonçalo Cunha Coutinho, whose work behind each issue is largely invisible and entirely essential. I thank our reviewers for their time and rigour, and our authors for trusting us with their work.

Three years is a beginning, not a destination. The next three must be about evidence.

Prof. David Serrano Faustino Ângelo, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Stomatology, Oral and Facial Surgery