

EDITORIAL

On editorial matters

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The development of the *ERJ*, in terms of number and quality of submitted and printed articles, has been tremendous in the first 10 yrs of its existence. Another record year for series was 1998. In the future, some restrictions are necessary, since the number of submitted manuscripts continues to rise (the forecast is about 1,350 for the end of 1998), but the number of printed pages can hardly be increased indefinitely (each single issue is now ~250 pages and is of a correct size). We are therefore forced to reduce the acceptance rate from the current 40–45% to 30–35% in the future. The Editorial Board will apply stricter criteria for acceptance, including more rigorous priority rating in regard to originality and the scientific content of submitted papers. This will ensure that only the highest quality articles are published. In the coming years, the Journal will continue to print ~3,000 pages per year, in two volumes, each volume containing six issues. Just as a reminder: in 1988, the Journal started with 10 issues and ~1,000 printed pages.

The manuscripts are received from all over the world, but mainly from Europe. In 1997, as in previous years, most papers were submitted from the UK (163) an increase of almost 30%, followed by Japan (113), France (103), Germany (91), the Netherlands (90), Italy (88), USA (79), Spain (71), Canada (46), and Belgium (44), just to mention the top ten. It is clear from this increase that the

work load for each Associate Editor and Staff Member is heavier once again. Despite this, the Associate Editors kept their median verdict time stable, with 67 days for the first decision letter to be sent to the authors. These dedicated experts primarily decide on the rejection or acceptance of an article, and are surely an important building block in the structure of a Journal. The quality of accepted articles more or less depends on their critical, fair and well-balanced judgement. I would like to express my particular thanks to those Associated Editors who are leaving by the end of 1998: J.M. Antó, K.F. Chung, P.J. Jeffery, C. Kroegel, K. Larsson, W.T. McNicholas, T. Schaberg, and A. Peacock. Nine new Associate Editors have been appointed and are welcomed to the Board.

The Production Office in Sheffield under the management of Wendy Thompson continued to keep the high standard in regard to layout, linguistic correctness, optical appearance and overall printing quality of the Journal. In early 1999 we will see the Journal not only as printed work, but also in full length on the Internet.

We are indebted to everybody who supported the development of the Journal in the first decade. The same support is welcome in the future from every party involved in the enterprise; these include: writers, readers, reviewers, as well as members and officers of the European Respiratory Society (ERS).