

EDITORIAL

The baton passes on...

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The *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (*EJCN*) starts the year 2007 with the publication of Volume 61. This does not actually mean that *EJCN* has existed for over 60 years and is entering its 61st year of publication – *EJCN* first appeared in 1988 as the successor of the journal *Human Nutrition: Clinical Nutrition* (*HNCN*). The volume numbers of its predecessor were retained when *EJCN* was launched, and so the first issue of *EJCN* was published as Volume 42, Number 1. *EJCN* has thus really been in existence for less than 20 years, while undoubtedly, its readers will agree, it has over this short period of time made a significant contribution and impact in the field of nutrition.

John Waterlow, who had just retired as Professor of Human Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, was Editor of *HNCN*, and then became the first Editor of the new *EJCN* at its inception. Professor Waterlow was responsible for the change in journal name, to reflect the need for such a publication to unite nutritionists interested in clinical nutrition in Europe. John Garrow at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School in London succeeded Water-

low as the next Editor of *EJCN*, and they were both ably supported by Joan Stephen as Executive Editor. Professor Garrow became the first and sole Editor-in-Chief of the journal in January 1990 and was joined in January 1996 by Professor Jacob (Jaap) C Seidell at the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment in Bilthoven, The Netherlands. Jaap Seidell in turn became sole Editor-in-Chief of *EJCN* in January 2000. After a decade of close involvement with the journal and subsequent leadership of the journal for nearly 7 years, which was marked by a period of considerable growth in the journal and its impact far beyond the boundaries of Europe, the time has come, yet again, to pass the baton on. Professor Prakash Shetty, now with the University of Southampton Medical School, takes over as Editor-in-Chief from Jaap Seidell. It seems an opportune enough time to pause for a moment and highlight briefly some of the accomplishments of the journal over the last decade.

The number of papers submitted to *EJCN* has risen dramatically during the last decade, from around 150 submissions in 1996 to just under 600 submissions in 2005. At the time this Editorial was written, the journal looked set to receive well over 600 manuscripts in 2006. The current rejection rate is approximately 60%, and we expect

Table 1 European Journal of Clinical Nutrition most highly cited articles

Authors	Title	Volume	Page range	Year	Citations ^a
Goldberg GR <i>et al.</i>	Critical evaluation of energy intake data using fundamental principles of energy physiology	45	569–581	1991	533
Rolland-Cachera MF <i>et al.</i>	1. Derivation of cutoff limits to identify underreporting Body mass index variations – centiles from birth to 87 years	45	13–21	1991	471
Black AE <i>et al.</i>	2. Evaluating the results of published surveys Critical evaluation of energy intake data using fundamental principles of energy physiology	45	582–599	1991	287
James WPT <i>et al.</i>	Definition of chronic energy deficiency in adults – report of a working party of the international dietary energy consultative group	42	969–981	1988	258
Weststrate JA and Meijer GW	Plant sterol-enriched margarines and reduction of plasma total and HDL cholesterol in normocholesterolaemic and mildly hypercholesterolaemic subjects	52	334–343	1998	245
Lissner L and Heitmann BL	Dietary fat and obesity – evidence from epidemiology	49	79–90	1995	240
Black AE <i>et al.</i>	Human energy expenditure in affluent societies: an analysis of 574 doubly labelled water measurements	50	72–92	1996	213
Serafini M, Ghiselli A and Ferro-Luzzi A	<i>In vivo</i> antioxidant effect of green and black tea in man	50	28–32	1996	212
Rissanen AM <i>et al.</i>	Determinants of weight gain and overweight in adult Finns	45	419–430	1991	200
Cole TJ	The LMS method for constructing normalized growth standards	46	45–60	1990	189

^aSource: Web of Science – accessed 29 October 2006.

The table summarizes the most highly cited articles published in *EJCN* since its launch in 1988, as measured in October 2006.

this to rise as a consequence of the continued increase in submissions. The journal's impact factor has also risen slowly but steadily in recent years, and is currently at 2.163. It is our hope that the impact factor will continue to rise as the journal grows over the next decade. Table 1 lists some of the highly cited papers published in *EJCN* over its brief existence and illustrates the impact that *EJCN* has had in the area of nutrition globally.

The pressures of growth in a journal editorially managed by academics, in an environment that places considerable demands on the Editor-in-Chief, has meant that much time has been spent in the editorial management of *EJCN*, leaving little time to comment on and innovate changes. We hope, however, that the future will be more generous and will provide opportunities to expand the scope of our journal. As the time comes for the baton of Editorship of *EJCN* to be passed on, we can only take this opportunity to thank our

contributors, not forgetting the crucial role played by the band of reviewers among our peers on whom we are so dependent, alongside the back room of Editorial Assistants supported by Nature Publishing Group who continue to toil to make *EJCN* what it is to so many of our readers. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous and eventful 2007, while we continue to solicit your encouragement and support for *EJCN* in the years to come – we expect the forthcoming year to be a time of change and development for *EJCN*, and we welcome your feedback and comments on the journal.

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