



EDITORIAL

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The European Journal has now entered its sixth year! As announced, we have switched publishers and as of 1998 we will be published by Stockton Press.

Once again we thank the previous publisher, S. Karger AG, for looking after us so well in the past, and for setting a quality standard for EJHG which we aim to maintain with the new publishing team at Stockton Press. From our dealings so far, we have every confidence that this will be the case. Readers will notice several changes in external outlook and internal layout. We hope you will find the new EJHG as attractive as the previous version, or even more so.

The scope and level of our papers will stay the same as before. In issue 5.5 I alluded to the major surge in manuscript submissions which occurred during 1997. From typically nine or ten manuscripts a month, the number has now almost doubled. Since we did not want to meet this with a commensurate increase in rejection rate, which has been about 50–55% in recent years, the solution has been a temporary increase in pages. But even so we have not been able to cope fully with the increased influx. Therefore, in the coming months, there may be temporarily a slightly longer time between the date of acceptance and the final publication date. The Society and the Publisher will work together to resolve this in the course of this year, by an earlier date of

actual appearance of each bimonthly issue than has been possible hitherto and by slightly bigger issues.

If I had known of this rapid increase in submissions, I might possibly have thought a bit longer about volunteering to take on board the Editorial office in my own Institute. However, once involved, I greatly enjoy the increased interest and the quality of the material sent in. This positive development will definitely accelerate the increase in publishing frequency.

Finally, while all parties involved are working hard to make the transition as smooth as possible, there have been — and will probably still be — some hitches now and then in the handling of manuscripts owing to the new configuration. This will undoubtedly extend to the publishing and delivery stages. We apologise for any inconvenience to authors and readers and promise that any flaws will be dealt with rapidly.

I wish you all a successful 1998 and hope that you will continue to submit the fruits of this success to the Journal.

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