

ANNUAL REPORT

2007 Annual report and plans for 2008

Journal website, www.thepcrj.org

Since moving to our new publishers in January 2007, there have been a number of new developments for the *PCRJ*. One of the key changes has been the setting up of the journal website at www.thepcrj.org. The website provides worldwide access, free of charge, to all *PCRJ* papers – not just past papers but immediate access to current papers too. From an ethical perspective we are delighted that we have been able to make the journal available free of charge to clinicians and researchers worldwide; in doing so we have also fulfilled one of the challenges laid down to us by the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) two years ago.¹

Figure 1 shows the website visit statistics from 1st January through to October 2007.

On average, 200 people access the site every day, looking at 2½ pages on average and spending an average 2¼ minutes on the site.

Figure 2 shows the sources of referrals/access to the site. It can be seen that over 50% of visitors to the site come from Medline/PubMed, and 8% come from the GPIAG website.

With this sort of website availability, several papers have had high numbers of downloads – as shown in Table 1. For example, the paper by Andy Bush on the diagnosis of asthma in children under five² has been downloaded almost 9000 times between February and September, and the IPCRG guideline papers have been downloaded nearly 7000 times. We hope that these high numbers of downloaded papers will start being reflected in increased *PCRJ* paper citations in 2008.

Future development of the journal website is entirely dependent on funding availability, and is uncertain in the near future. However we are just about to go live with our new online submission system via Manuscript Central. As soon as we are able (i.e. when we have the budget) we hope to include listings of the most frequently downloaded and most frequently cited papers, together with the facility for readers to download citations into reference management software as well as a facility to download slides of graphs and tables for personal use. We also hope to develop targeted e-alerts to encourage reader citations, and finally, we hope to implement a new project with SCOPUS to add author

publication activity and personal H-Index scores (a measure of personal citations) on the website – all of which should increase website traffic and publication submissions.

Paper submissions in 2007

As at the end of September, we had received 67 original paper submissions, compared with 91 for the whole year in 2006. While we continue to attract 40% of our papers from outside the UK, this proportion is slightly reduced compared with 2006. Our acceptance rate for papers is approximately 84% – higher than last year – but we feel that this comfortably reflects the increased quality of submissions in general (Table 2).

Marketing

Our new publisher has been actively marketing the journal, particularly by sending copies of the journal and calls for papers to the ATS, which were distributed by the GPIAG committee. There was a *PCRJ* stand at the ERS in Stockholm which was very well attended, and at which many copies of the journal and calls for papers were distributed.

Citations

One of our major aims is to increase the number of *PCRJ* papers being cited in peer-reviewed journals. We have no doubt that, with the free worldwide access to *PCRJ* papers now available because of the journal website, and with the encouraging website statistics available so far this year, increased citations for journal papers will follow. However, we are constantly looking at ways in which we can help develop citations further, and possible solutions include speeding up the handling of accepted papers so that they appear online as soon as possible, further development of the website, marketing of papers through an e-alert system, and working with colleagues to ensure that they're aware of *PCRJ* papers in their specific field.

Figure 1. Website visit statistics from 1st March to 28th October 2007 for www.theprcj.org

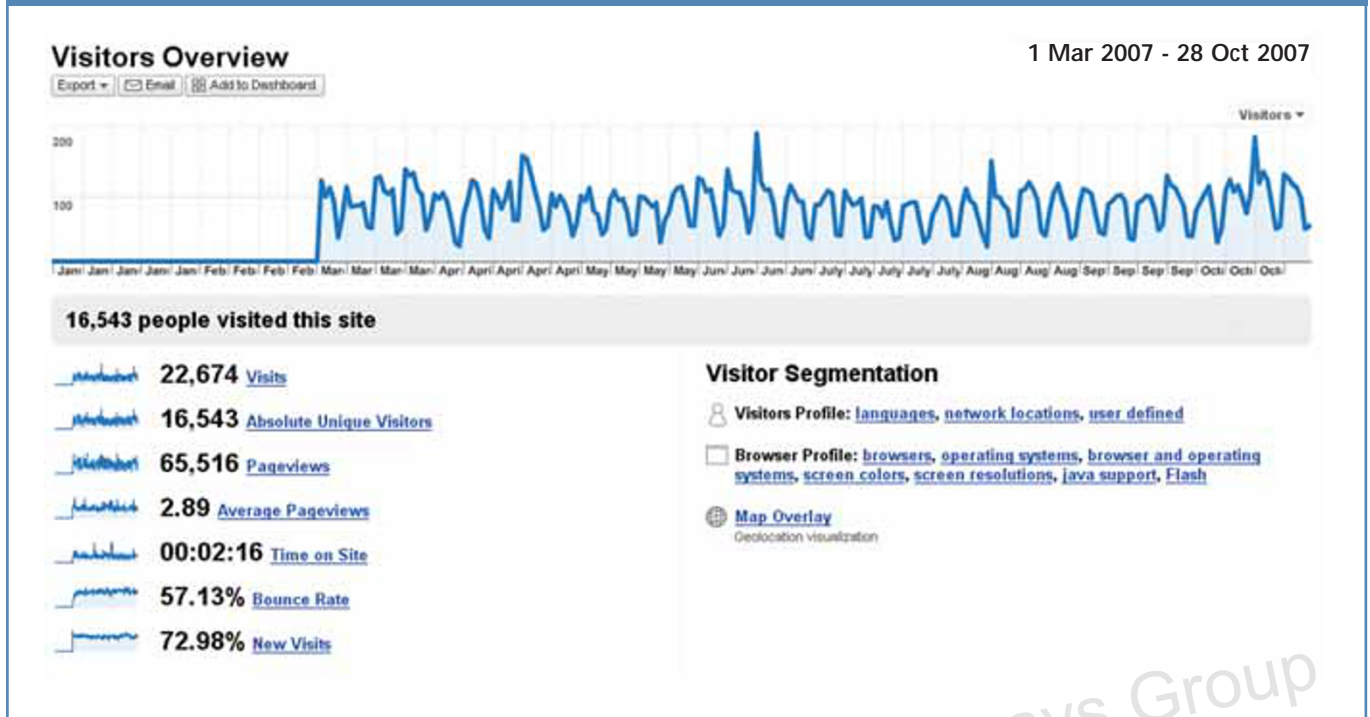


Figure 2. Sources of referrals to www.theprcj.org

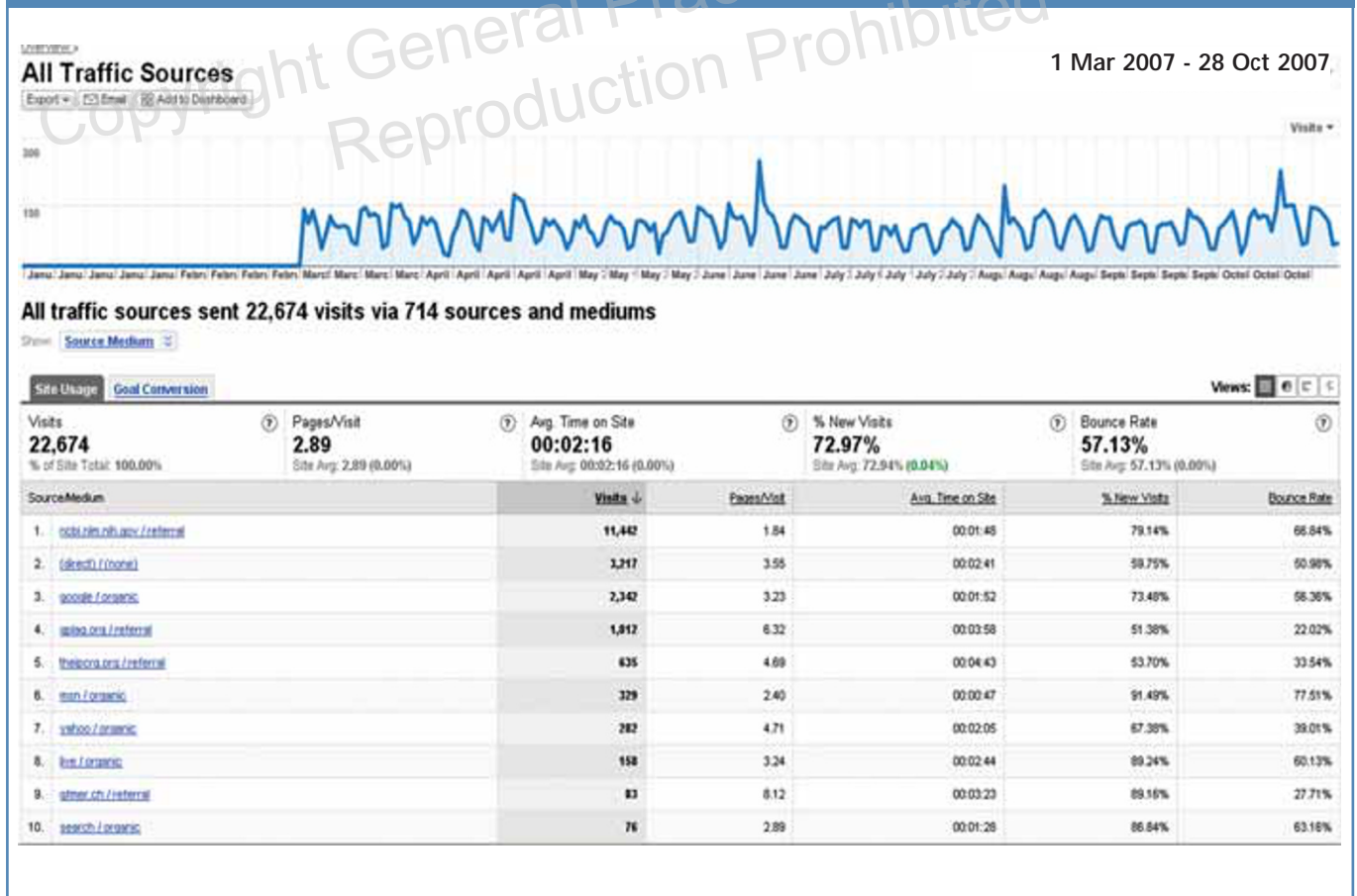


Table 1. Top 10 downloaded papers on the *PCRJ* website, 2007 (all available at www.thepcrj.org - Vol 16 2007).

Paper	Times downloaded										Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
1 Diagnosis of asthma in children under five <i>Andrew Bush. Online 7 February 2007</i>		719	1195	1620	1603	851	964	1178	834		8964
2 International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) Guidelines: Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) <i>David Bellamy, Jacques Bouchard, Svein Henrichsen, Gunnar Johansson, Arnulf Langhammer, Jim Reid, Chris van Weel and Sonia Buist. Online February 2006</i>	424	702	540	508	508					458	3140
3 COPD screening efforts in primary care: what is the yield? <i>David G Tinkelman, David Price, Robert J Nordyke and Ronald J Halbert. Online 10 February 2007</i>		1128	705	516		502					2851
4 International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) Guidelines: Management of Asthma <i>Thys van der Molen, Anders Østrem, Bjorn Stallberg, Marianne Stubbe Østergaard and Raj B Singh. Online February 2006</i>	492	563	536		563					452	2606
5 The properties of inhaled corticosteroids: similarities and differences <i>Neil C Barnes. Online 27 May 2007</i>						855	790	496			2141
6 Inhalation therapy: an historical review <i>Mark Sanders. Online 13 March 2007</i>						636	597	460			1693
7 Asthma: 1987-2007. What have we achieved and what are the persisting challenges? <i>Martyn R Partridge. Online 27 May 2007</i>						900	527				1427
8 International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) Guidelines: Management of allergic rhinitis <i>David Price, Christine Bond, Jacques Bouchard, Rui Costa, Joseph Keenan, Mark L Levy, Mari Orru, Dermot Ryan, Samantha Walker and Margaret Watson. Online February 2006</i>	400			479			503				1382
9 Prevalence of sleep-related symptoms in a primary care population – their relation to asthma and COPD <i>Foteini Karachaliou, Konstantinos Kostikas, Chaido Pastaka, Vassilios Bagiatis, Konstantinos I Gourgoulisanis. Online 8 August 2007</i>								726	505		1231
10 International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) Guidelines: Diagnosis of respiratory diseases in primary care <i>Mark L Levy, Monica Fletcher, David B Price, Thomas Hausen, Ron J Halbert and Barbara P Yawn. Online February 2006</i>	320		652								972

Funding/frequency of issues

In the present financial climate it is becoming increasingly challenging to produce a high quality peer-reviewed academic journal in paper format which also provides free worldwide online access to current journal papers. We are currently in discussion with our publisher and the Trustees of

the GPIAG (the owners of the *PCRJ*) regarding the format of the *PCRJ* next year. In general, we see the journal website as the way forward, but we are all agreed – editors, publisher, GPIAG Trustees and International Editorial Board members – that a hard copy publication, in addition to the online publication of papers, is highly preferable. One possible solution is that the hard copy journal will revert to being a quarterly publication; this will clearly delay print publication but we will

Table 2. Papers received by the *PCRJ* in 2007 compared with 2006.

PCRJ Stats 2007	2006	To Sep 2007
New manuscripts received	91	67
Number of commissioned papers	7	12
Total papers submitted	99	79
Rejection rate	(32) 36%	(12) 18%
Total papers published [#]	57	56
Number of papers in process/ carried forward	10	21
Published articles by first author country	Volume 15	Volume 16 to Oct edition
UK	27	34
Netherlands	9	1
USA	7	4
Canada	3	3
Australia	2	2
Brazil	0	1
Denmark	0	4
Finland	1	0
France	1	0
Greece	1	2
Kuwait	1	0
Mexico	0	1
Norway	1	1
Singapore	1	1
South Africa	1	1
Sweden	1	1
Syria	1	0
Total published items <i>(excludes abstracts and editor's What's in This Issue)</i>	57	56
UK:Non-UK ratio	27:30	34:22

10 papers carried forward from 2006 to 2007

Note: These figures are as accurate as possible given the difficulties faced in calculating data from three separate processing systems during the transition to new publishers in 2006/07.

A new electronic submission system will be available for 2008 calculations

continue to provide a rapid 'ahead of print' publication service online. We anticipate that, in the future - as is the case for many journals - the website will be the main vehicle for publication of the *PCRJ*. We will notify readers of the results of our discussions, and any changes in the process of publication of the journal, on the website and in the first issue of 2008.

Supplements

We are able to announce that Dr Paul Stephenson (Deputy Editor) has been appointed Supplements Editor, with direct responsibility to the Editor-in-Chief, following a period of discussion and provisional agreement on a new supplements policy document, underpinned by a new framework for the relationship between the journal owners, the publishers and the editors of the *PCRJ*. These documents will be submitted to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) for their advice, once finally agreed by the GPIAG Trustees.

References

1. Tomlins R, Williams S. The impact of the UK General Practice Airways Group (GPIAG) – an international perspective. *Prim Care Resp J* 2007;**16**(3):140-4. doi:10.3132/pcrj.2007.00037
2. Bush A. Diagnosis of asthma in children under five. *Prim Care Resp J* 2007;**16**(1):7-15. doi:10.3132/pcrj.2007.00001

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