



EDITORIAL

Editor's report for 2003

2003 has been a year of considerable progress and development for your Journal. The EJSO is the dedicated voice for a broad community of surgeons whose professional practice encompasses the care and management of patients with cancer. Those who attend international oncology meetings such as ECCO and ASCO will testify to the huge political, media and financial influence of the disciplines of medical and clinical oncology. We can all reflect ruefully on how little collective political power we can muster to influence our destinies and common interests as surgeons, and the need for a common vehicle to articulate and to advance our goals.

Our first achievement has been to set out a strategic vision for the Journal, with the support of our joint owners, BASO, ESSO, and Elsevier. We aim in time to become the worldwide journal of choice for authors and readers alike for scientific, clinical and newsworthy papers and articles across the entire spectrum of disciplines related to cancer surgery. To this end, we now employ the scale and reach of our publishers to promote ourselves and to distribute our content across the Internet throughout the world. We are now receiving articles from every continent and can no longer be considered a solely European journal.

We also aim to become a more powerful medium of communication, such that authors can take pride in the further projection of their work and such that readers can enjoy well written, intelligible and well illustrated articles. To this end, we are devoting considerable editorial time and effort to working with authors to produce succinct, credible, legible and attractive manuscripts in fluent scientific English. We are most grateful for the forbearance of our many authors who have engaged willingly and supportively in this process.

In order to achieve greater influence in the wider world, we have also adopted the subtitle 'the Journal of Cancer Surgery' this year, as we

believe that this helps to communicate our purpose more clearly to the public and to the professional community at large than does the phrase 'Surgical Oncology'. This also helps distinguish us from other several journals bearing a similar title. We retain our EJSO title for citation purposes.

On the housekeeping front, our administration is now centralised and conducted from the publisher's well resourced and accessible premises near Oxford, to which we moved early in 2003. We are making much greater use of electronic tools in the editorial and review process, and expect to see the benefits in speed to publication and efficiency of our operations work through with time.

In quantitative terms, there has been a 20% growth in manuscript submissions in the past 12 months. We hope to be in a position to move to monthly publication by 2005 if these improvements are sustained. At 1.4, the impact factor has achieved a very respectable value for a specialist professional journal, and we expect this to continue to improve as we broaden our appeal and readership. Nevertheless, the impact factor alone cannot do justice to the strategy of communication which we are developing including a News and Views section, and as we move to become more generally useful to the community of cancer specialists.

The production of a professional journal is a collaborative and team effort. We are particularly indebted to our Administrative Editor Ruth Beer, and to Peter Harrison as Publisher for Elsevier Health Sciences, for their hard work and good natured support. We are most grateful for the support of our many expert reviewers, whose timely, thoughtful and voluntary input helps ensure quality and improvement, and to the community of authors and subscribers without whose support we would not progress.

We live in an imperfect world where access to resources, to knowledge and to healthcare are unequal, and in a challenging professional

environment where change is continual, often arbitrary and not always for the better. The EJSO is committed to bringing excellent science, clarity of insight, and stimulating debate to the community of clinicians with an interest in the surgical management of cancer. Your contributions are always welcome, as imaginative

authorship and well crafted words are the lifeblood of this process.

D.A. Rew
Editor, EJSO

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