
EDITORIAL

The future of the *EJSO*

The *EJSO* is set on a steady course. As a specialist journal dedicated to the diverse disciplines of cancer surgery, it continues to grow in reach, frequency and quality of publication, in its impact factor, and in breadth of coverage. We are much indebted to Professor Irving Taylor's leadership as Editor-in-Chief over the past 9 years. We are delighted that he will remain associated with us as Editor Emeritus, as he takes up his new post at the University of London.

The role of the Editor is to set a vision and a strategy for the Journal, so as to engage the enthusiasm of the readers and of the many individuals who give willingly and generously of their precious time and energies as associate editors, as members of the advisory and supervisory boards, as referees and as writers of the papers which are its lifeblood.

In recent years, the impact factor, a somewhat artificial and retrospective measure of effectiveness in scientific publishing, has come to dominate the life of journals, and our own impact factor advances worthily from year to year. However, as a specialist journal, we will always be disadvantaged against the broad, generalist and wide circulation medical and scientific Journals when measured by impact factor alone. We will thus seek also to be judged and sought out for the quality of our presentation of the written word, and by the dynamism, originality, challenge and interest of our content.

We are acutely aware that we represent an international community of authors and readers for whom scientific English is often not their first language. We use a language which at its best brings grace, beauty and clarity to the expression of human thought and message, but which can be so misused and bloated as to render tedious or unintelligible those same ideas. Linguistic clarity usually stems from short, concise prose, and we shall do our best in the editorial process to assist our authors, referees and readers in pursuing that clarity. Our intent will be set out in the revised instructions to authors and referees.

Words have meaning, and they move hearts and minds. We are concerned that the specialist phrase 'Surgical Oncology' does not convey our intent to the profession or to the public as effectively as does the

more generally understood term 'Cancer Surgery'. We believe that our adoption of the colloquial working subtitle 'The Journal of Cancer Surgery' will broaden our appeal to specialist and generalist readers and contributors alike, while we continue to support and extend the educational and examination initiatives in Surgical Oncology in Europe and beyond. The *EJSO* will retain its current masthead title for citation purposes.

Within the next few years, we expect to be able to publish a regular, monthly edition. Our catalogue of papers and articles awaiting publication is already large, and we apologise to those authors who wait to see in print those accepted papers which are now immediately citable through our electronic service ScienceDirect.

The community of cancer surgeons and cancer surgical subspecialties needs a Journal focussed on professional education and communication, and the *EJSO* is well placed to subsume this role worldwide. The community also needs a champion for its interests in the complex and competitive world of health resources, economics and politics, and we intend to develop our coverage of matters of general interest in a News and Views section as our publication frequency increases.

We are renewing our editorial team and supervisory structure, and extend our thanks to the many international authorities who have guided the growth of the *EJSO* in recent years. We are delighted to hear from anyone who has the time, interest, commitment, latent or proven editorial skills to help advance the *EJSO* and share the burden of recruiting, reviewing and processing the substantial flow of manuscripts which we are now privileged to receive.

And so to the vision. This is clear and simple. We intend that the Journal will become the preferred international vehicle for publication of quality manuscripts across the breadth of endeavour in cancer surgery and its related clinical and scientific disciplines. The strategy will be complex and challenging, as we seek to engage with professional groups who have not thus far formed our natural constituency by virtue of specialist discipline, geography or choice. We are fortunate in the

strength and commitment of our publishers and in the worldwide reach and instantaneity of our electronic presence across the Internet.

As the journal of BASO and ESSO, the *EJSO* belongs to the community of surgeons who treat cancer patients, and rises and declines with your support. We are

privileged to serve you in advancing your Journal and your work in the coming years.

David A. Rew
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