Growth Continues

Respiration is facing new challenges for 2008. In previous editorials I have repeatedly stated that not only did the journal enjoy more but also better contributions. This has allowed us to implement the new policy of accepting only 20% of all submissions. But despite this, the number of accepted good manuscript has been growing over the last year. Although all our papers first appear in electronic version on the web, there is a backlog of papers listed on the web but still awaiting print. After consultation with the publisher, S. Karger AG, it was therefore decided to finally increase the number of issues of *Respiration*. As of January 2008, the journal will appear 8 times per year in 2 volumes of 4 issues each. These issues will appear evenly spaced every 6 weeks. This will allow us to work off the entire backlog until the end of the year. I am confident that the current upward trend in the number of submissions will continue unabated, which – I predict – will result in having a monthly appearance of the journal in the near future.

What about our aim to reach for an impact factor (IF) of above 2, which I first pronounced in my last editorial a year ago. Well, we are heading in the right direction as the latest IF of 2006 has shown another satisfactory increase from 1.299 to now 1.649. My prediction is a further increase next year, but possibly smaller, as we have published more papers in 2006, which will impact on the 2007 IF (appearing in 2008).

Another innovation for which I am indebted to the publisher is the fact that back issues of *Respiration* are now fully accessible free of charge on the web 12 months after their appearance. This gives the researcher the opportunity of easy access to *Respiration's* material as soon as possible. We will carefully trace the number of downloads, which should markedly increase with this new feature. Another very recent decision along these lines is the introduction of an article entitled Editor's Choice. This article

is chosen by the editor-in-chief and all associate editors on a rotational base. This should guarantee a good cross section of all relevant topics in chest medicine, as each associate editor will naturally tend to choose articles in his/her area of expertise. The Editor's Choice article will also be immediately available online full text free of charge.

Our by now time-honored tradition of having a Thematic Review Series (TRS) continues. So far, most series consisted of 6 articles running for 1 entire year. With 2 volumes per year, a TRS can now vary between 4 and a maximum of 8 articles, thus running from 6 months to 1 year. Since its introduction in 1998 the TRS has been of the highest standard, which is also reflected by the fact that its articles generate most citations of all sections in *Respiration*. The 2008 series is an update on pleural topics coedited by Demosthenes Bouros, Greece, and Marc Noppen, Belgium. Their introduction of the series follows this editorial.

With 2008, there is also quite a big change in the composition of our editorial board. A number of long-serving members will end their terms and will be replaced by new members. We are happy to announce our new members PD Dr. Gerhard Hoheisel, Leipzig, and Israel (Rudi) Rubinstein, MD, Chicago, Ill., USA. A warm thank-you goes to the outgoing editorial board members, you have supported the journal for many years and have been instrumental in helping it to witness its current success.

My thanks are extended to the editorial team but also to the top management at S. Karger AG for their continued support of my work as editor-in-chief and their decision to grow in size. You, the reader and potential contributor of outstanding work, and the editorial board members will make sure that the increased quantity of published articles will be matched with even better quality.

C.T. Bolliger, Editor-in-Chief, Cape Town