Editor's Note

C.	Claude	Kordon
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Here is some news from *Neuroendocrinology*'s editorial office:

As already announced in a previous Editor's Note [*Neuroendocrinology* 1997;66:1], maintaining a receiving office in San Francisco was found to induce delays in the processing of manuscripts. It thus was decided at an editorial board meeting to keep Richard Weiner as an associate editor, but to stop his activity as a receiving editor. Many authors from North America are still not aware of this change (inserted in the 'Guidelines for Authors' since the beginning of 1997); we thus remind them that they should send their manuscripts directly to the main editorial office in Paris, which will help to reduce evaluation time.

The 1995 impact factor published at the beginning of the year is 2,684, a slight (11 %) increase over the previous year. This index reflects citations made in 1994 and 1995 of papers published in 1993 and 1994, and is still influenced by the important backlog of 244 manuscripts published in the journal in 1993 (increased selectivity has now stabilised the number of published manuscripts to about half this figure). A 25% increase in the 'first year cite' index between 1993 and 1994 is consistent with this interpretation. We will thus follow closely the two next indices, which should give a more accurate view of the result of the recent, more selective editorial policy.

One should, however, interpret citation indices with caution. A recent study based on all available indices [Magri and Solari, *Scientometrics* 1996; 35:93-117] suggests that the value of journals for their readership can be defined by only 4 major categories ('low', 'average', 'high' and 'extreme'). Very few journals only belong to the 'extreme' group, and a large number to the 'low' group, while most disciplinary journals are either 'average' (*Neuroendocrinology* is presently in that category) or 'high'. Our ambition is to raise our journal from the former to the latter category in the next 3 years.

Finally, we will now further improve our present publication span (an average of 7 months from receipt to publication of a manuscript) by encouraging systematic submission of manuscripts on disks which would *supplement*, not substitute, the hard copy version. (For technical details, handling and text arrangement, please consult the publishers' 'Guidelines for Disk Submission' in the front pages of the journal.) We are now experimenting with Internet communication within the editorial board (for texts and histograms; for the time being, histological illustrations will still be circulated by courier). Submission on paper only is of course still accepted but may not benefit from accelerated evaluation. The editors welcome any comments by authors or readers on these developments.

According to our by-laws, the editorial board of *Neuroendocrinology* has been partly renewed, and an updated list of board members appears in the present issue.

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