Editorial

Audiology & Neuro-Otology has completed the first half of its first decennium, during a time characterized by an increasing number of journals competing for publications and readership. We have seen new journals come and go, and our field of auditory and vestibular science is no exception. In the editorial to the first issue of the preceding volume, I expressed my expectations and confidence that our impact factor will be significantly above zero, hopefully within the upper third of the journals in our field. And my expectations came true: According to the Institute for Scientific Information's Science Citation Index for 1999, *Audiology & Neuro-Otology* is, with an impact factor of 2.018, the leading journal in the field of Otorhinolaryngology. Furthermore, it is the highest ranked auditory journal among the Neurosciences, and if it were also listed in the section Acoustics, *Audiology & Neuro-Otology* would have been the highest ranked journal not dealing with ultrasound. This rather unexpected success could not have been accomplished without the steady influx of manuscripts, excellent review papers, excellent special issues, and – last but not least – the thorough, critical peer-review process which, without exception, all manuscripts are subject to.

It is with great pleasure that I can state that the inflow of manuscripts has been healthy. The majority of papers came from Europe, three each from the Americas, Australia, and Japan (invited papers not included). Of the unsolicited manuscripts, only 18% have been accepted, 72% rejected, and 5% withdrawn.

All in all, we feel we are entitled to claim that *Audiology & Neuro-Otology* has definitely established its place among the journals in the field, and we are quite confident that we will be able to maintain this achievement, and also to maintain a forum that attracts submissions of interesting new results from all related fields to *Audiology & Neuro-Otology*. To achieve this goal we will continue to regularly publish review articles and special issues covering actual topics. Currently, two review articles are in preparation about 'Functional Imaging of the Central Auditory System', one is by Ingrid Johnsrude, Cambridge, UK (PET studies), and the other is by Josef P. Rauschecker and Mark Wessinger, Washington, D.C., USA (fMRT studies). A review article about 'M. Ménière Revisited' by George Gates, Seattle, Wash., USA, one about 'Age-Related Hearing Loss' by James Willott, Tampa, Fla., USA, and another about 'Neurophysiology of Auditory Perception' by Jos J. Eggermont, Calgary, Canada, will follow. Other review articles are under negotiation. Also in preparation is a special issue on 'Cochlear Implants and Brain Plasticity', to be edited by Rob Shepherd, Melbourne, Australia, and Robert B. Illing, Freiburg, Germany.

With these prospects in mind, I am happy to present the next volume to you. Please enjoy reading and publishing in *Audiology & Neuro-Otology*.

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