Editor's Note

Let me take the opportunity of the New Year to provide you with some update about the operation of *Neuroendocrinology*. Last year, the number of submissions has remained fairly constant, with a slight increase in submissions from Europe and Japan. Initial evaluation time of 61% of submitted papers was achieved in less than 60 days (25% in less than 45 days). Average duration of evaluation was 15 days for Rapid Reject decisions and 19 days for Rapid Communications (those were published within 3 to 4 months). Overall rejection rate reached 52%. This relatively stringent policy seems to have contributed to the progression of our impact factor over the last five years. Interestingly, the proportion of accepted manuscripts is slightly under average for articles submitted from Europe, an observation which may reflect cultural differences in publication strategies or self-restraint.

As usual, about half the articles published in 2001 address physiological issues, while 13% deal with molecular neuroendocrinology. Clinical aspects are covered in 8% of the papers only, a decrease over previous years which may reflect competition by new clinical journals. Reproductive neuroendocrinology remains a major topic (25%), with neuropeptide or neuropeptide receptor expression coming next, as well as neuroendocrine correlates of food intake (13% each), followed by growth hormone and corticotropin regulation (12% each).

In agreement with his commitment to maintain the high quality to his journals (see this page), our publisher has agreed to implement several recommendations of the Editorial Board. Titles and abstracts are now made available on request and circulated by e-mail ahead of publication. Colour plates are published free of charge whenever they add significant value to histological interpretations, and the overall presentation of figures has been improved.

Neuroendocrinology will be present in 2002 at major endocrine and neuroscience meetings. In the meantime, the Editorial team looks forward to pursuing our close cooperation with authors in order to provide our readership with consistent, conclusive data, and wishes you a very fruitful and rewarding New Year!

Claude Kordon

Some Thoughts from Your Publisher

While the current situation in the world is troubling everyone, and there is much talk about globalization and an apparent and imminent clash of cultures, it is perhaps an appropriate time to share some of our thoughts on our own publishing future at a time of considerable economic uncertainty.

The publishing house of Karger, independent since its founding some 112 years ago, and entirely self-financing, will endeavor to maintain its position. As the number of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers consolidate into a few large firms, Karger is proud to remain independent and to continue its cooperative policy, also with various Internet business partners. We believe this to be in the best interest of the scientific community.

As well as remaining in close contact with our established offices world-wide, we are strengthening our stance with a new presence in Beijing and in St. Petersburg, and with a substantial joint venture in the Middle East. Our independence allows us to make publishing decisions based on longer-term considerations and scientific merit, rather than on investment returns in the immediate future.

The quality of our publishing program depends on you – authors, editors, reviewers and readers – and it is to you that we acknowledge our indebtedness with gratitude. We work hard to maintain first-class customer service, fair pricing and sophisticated user-friendly software.

We recognize that as publishers, we play a significant role in the chain of information transfer for education and research, thus helping to bring the world of science closer. We shall not be diverted from this role, and we thank you for your very much appreciated past and future support.

Thomas Karger

Steven Karger