***Digestive Surgery* Moves into the Future with Partners**

Digestive Surgery welcomes the Hellenic Society for Gastrointestinal Surgery (HSDS) as a new partner for our journal. We thank Dr. Christos Dervenis of Athens and his colleagues for their tremendous efforts in putting this group together in Greece as a symbol of the new direction of surgical divisions. Over decades general surgery has served as a mother for gastrointestinal (GI) surgery, and now this child has become mature with associations for GI surgery forming rapidly in various countries. It is therefore an honor for us that *Digestive Surgery* will serve the Greek GI surgeons as a platform for their scientific publications and discussions. Within 2 years the Greek surgeons have now become the third group after the Dutch and Japanese GI surgeons to become partners of our journal.

This month the Institute for Scientific Information released the newest list (2000) of journal impact factors showing that *Digestive Surgery* has doubled its impact factor (citations per published article) within 1 year, now reaching 0.8. Certainly we are still some miles away from our aim to become a leading surgical journal (impact factor >2) but this recent measurable quality increase supports the direction of our editorial team together with our publisher for continuous improvement. The impact of a journal is indicated by the number of citations in published articles, thereby improving its visibility and distribution. The fact that *Digestive Surgery* can 'enter another country', in particular Greece which perfectly combines ancient and modern culture in Europe as well as surgical tradition and innovation, is demanding for all of us and supports our aim.

On behalf of the whole *Digestive Surgery* team we extend a warm welcome to our Greek colleagues.

M.W. Büchler