Editorial

In order to cope with the challenge of the coming years, which may prove difficult for many scientific journals, the Editorial Office of *Neuroendocrinology* has proposed to further improve its operation. At a meeting of the Endocrine Society in San Diego last June, a partly renewed Editorial Board has accepted to become more involved and to limit excessive use of external referees. We gratefully acknowledge the many external referees who accepted to help us in 1999 (see issue 70/6 and issue 71/2). We will still rely on their expertise in the future, but we expect that an increased involvement of 'official' Board members will further speed up the evaluation process.

Among new measures to be implemented in 2000 are an improvement of the quality of figures, including a generous offer by Mr. T. Karger to publish free colour plates when they really add value to the scientific content of the articles. Table of contents will be circulated 2 months in advance to anyone interested in this service (requests can be e-mailed to neuroend@necker.fr). Decisions on Rapid Communications will be notified in less than 10 working days, and publication after acceptance will occur within 2 months. The same short evaluation delay will be used in the Rapid Reject procedure, a process permitting fast feedback to authors of manuscripts considered not original enough or too preliminary for publication in *Neuroendocrinology*.

The good news for 1999 was that our efforts to improve the quality of the Journal are beginning to affect our impact factor, which just passed the 3.0 mark, repre-

senting an over 20% improvement over previous years. In parallel, the number of articles with 1 quote or less has decreased from 59 to 37% (the proportion of never quoted papers even fell from 50 to 12%) between 1995 and 1996 (the last year for which full bibliometric records are available). The ten most cited 1996 articles were quoted 137 times, vs. 96 for those published in 1995.

Our ambition is to pursue our efforts and to reach an impact factor of 4 in the next 3 years. Of course, we very much rely on our authors and our readers to achieve this goal, and we hope that their continued support will help us make it become a reality.

The Editorial Office and the Board join me in presenting you with our best wishes for a fruitful New Year.

Claude Kordon
Chief Editor, *Neuroendocrinology*

Please note that the address of the Editorial Office has changed as of January 1. Manuscripts and correspondence should now be addressed to:

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Institut de Recherches Necker
156, rue de Vaugirard
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The telephone number is now +33 1 40 61 55 72 and the fax +33 1 40 61 55 73.

The former e-mail is still valid but we advise our correspondents to use the new one (neuroend@necker.fr).