New Heights

Another year has passed with *Respiration* undergoing rapid transformation in various areas. Firstly, the electronic handling of manuscripts with the new software package XpressTrack has been successfully implemented. From submission to final verdict, everything is now handled paper free. The initial success allows us to implement the next step. As of January 2004 all material must be submitted electronically, paper versions are no longer acceptable. So please do not be surprised if your paper version is returned to you asking for electronic submission. For the editorial board members and the publisher, the electronic age definitely has expedited the reviewing process tremendously.

The number of submitted manuscripts has yet again slightly increased to an average of 32 manuscripts per month up from a meager 12 per month some years ago! I follow this figure closely as it is a fine barometer of the quality of a journal. This increase in submissions has made it possible to become even more selective in what we accept. The overall acceptance rate in 2003 was 37%. As far as case reports are concerned, I would like to spell out the journal's policy once again. We continue to publish excellent reports, however the number of such reports is now limited to a maximum of 3 per issue. The very low acceptance rate of 17% in 2003 guarantees quality in this section and prevents a long backlog of papers waiting to be printed. So, the message, dear potential contributor, is simple: only submit outstanding cases usually putting your findings in perspective to the world literature. This will avoid disappointment.

The new section dedicated to Interventional Pulmonology (IP) and run by the European Association of Bron-

chology and IP (EAB) is enjoying the expected popularity. Our clear vision is to become the number one journal in this area. Bearing this high goal in mind, we only accept manuscripts of the highest quality. This resulted in relatively few articles being printed last year in comparison to the number of papers received. The thematic review series of the EAB on 'Thoracic Imaging Procedures' has been edited by Prof. H.D. Becker and was of exceptional quality addressing cutting-edge developments in this highly technical field. A well-attended workshop on the topic was held at the ERS annual congress in Vienna. You

did not know about it? Well, become a member of the EAB and you will not miss such golden opportunities again!

The other outstanding review series on pulmonary embolism was edited by Prof. Claus Kroegel who has done a sterling job. This year's thematic review series on Interstitial Lung Disease promises yet again to become a highlight of the journal throughout the year. Dario Olivieri, one of our experienced associate editors, is responsible for it (see following Editorial).

A dynamic publication such as *Respiration* also has a dynamic editorial board. It gives me great pleasure to announce a new associate editor Prof. Claus Kroegel, Jena, and no less than five new board members: Prof. Elisabeth

Brambilla, Grenoble, Dr. Antonio Foresi, Sesto San Giovanni, Profs Marc Noppen, Brussels, Antonio Palla, Pisa, and Hubert Wirtz, Leipzig. Welcome to the team! On the other hand, we would like to acknowledge the invaluable support we have received from Prof. K.M. Muller, Bochum, and Prof. C.H. Marquette, Lille, who both left the Editorial Board at the end of 2003.

Dear Reader, from these lines you will easily have realized that the upward trend of *Respiration* is ongoing. It is a pleasure to be the Editor of a journal that enjoys increasing success and can rely on the help of an excellent editorial board as well as a first class publisher. Let's achieve new heights in 2004!

C.T. Bolliger, Cape Town