The Wind Is Gathering Strength

When in 1998 I wrote my first editorial as Editor-in-chief of *Respiration*, I entitled it 'A wind of change'. By that I meant that the content of the journal was radically changed; whereas previously we only had original investigations and a large case report section, we introduced all the currently well-known sections. Quite quickly readers and authors took advantage of this change and all of these new sections fared extremely well, with the exception of the 'rapid communications' which was dropped because of lack of demand.

We also published a lot more articles, the general acceptance rate being around 50% in 1998. Over the years, this rate has now dropped to 30%, with the aim for 2006 being 25%. This decision was reached at the recent Editorial Board Meeting in Copenhagen in the light of the ever increasing amount of submitted articles.

The impact factor (IF) 2004 (published in July 2005) has finally crossed 1 (1.02), which I had predicted in last year's editorial in the first issue of *Respiration* 2005. When assessing the quality of articles we are currently receiving, it is clear that the IF is still lagging behind. This increased quality of submissions, the planned lowering of the acceptance rate, and the policy to publish a maximum of two case reports per issue will have to lead to a more rapid rise of the IF over the coming 2–3 years; in other words, the wind has not only changed but is rapidly gathering strength. It is the clear aim of the journal to achieve an IF of 1.5 in the short term and exceed 2 in the intermediate term.

There is another new feature, which we implemented in July 2005: electronic publication (epub) ahead of print.

Professor Praveen N. Mathur,
Indianapolis, Ind., USA.

After working up a backlog of accepted articles waiting for publication, the aim is now to publish every article electronically once it has been accepted. This drastically shortens the time from acceptance to publication and largely offsets the disadvantage of *Respiration* only appearing every second month. The feedback from authors has been extremely positive so far. The overriding wish of every author is to be able to become 'citable' as soon as possible, whether electronically or in paper form is sec-

ondary. I believe with epub *Respiration* has made a big step towards that goal.

One of the most successful sections of *Respiration* is the 'thematic review series', which for 2006 is entitled 'The future in diagnosis and staging of lung cancer'. We were fortunate enough to coopt Prof. Johan Vansteenkiste, Belgium, as guest editor of this series, which he introduces in the following editorial. The various articles promise some cutting edge knowledge in this important area.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the Editorial Board and the many outside reviewers who guarantee the

ever improving quality of the material we publish. Further, I have the pleasure of welcoming a new Associate Editor, Prof. P.N. Mathur, Indianapolis, who previously had already been a board member of *Respiration*. He will be responsible for general pulmonology papers, but also has a special interest and expertise in interventional pulmonology. Last but not least, a big thank you to the people at the publisher, S. Karger AG, Basel, who always enthusiastically endorse my new ideas. With people such as Linda Haas, Thomas Nold, and Stefan Sessler, the crew is well equipped to handle a stiff breeze!

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