Digestive Surgery Makes an Impact – Worldwide

Digestive Surgery was first published in 1984 as a specialist journal for GI surgeons. At the time, many questioned the wisdom of such selectivity, but as the world has changed, *Digestive Surgery* has become harmonized with a modern era.

In a growing and changing world, the need to identify with reliable colleagues committed to a similar cause becomes increasingly paramount. As countries around the world have become more affluent, quality healthcare has become a major priority for them and is a strong indicator of success. The old economic divisions between East and West are rapidly dissipating as we see dramatic growth in countries in Asia, South and Central America and the prosperity of old Europe steadily percolating into former Eastern European countries.

So not only do we see wealth rising to higher and more equitable levels around the world, but also countries now share very high aspirations for healthcare. For most of us this means an end to the 'general surgeon'. Even in my generation, trained in the 1970s and 1980s, we could see the beginning of the end for the generalist. Over the next 10 years we are likely to see the last of the general surgeon and the emergence and domination of subspecialty-driven surgical experts.

We share with our readers of *Digestive Surgery* the privilege of being GI surgeons – undoubtedly still one of the most exciting areas in surgery and indeed the whole of medicine. Thus the growth of GI surgery around the world is growing apace and inevitably this creates great pressure on specialist journals such *Digestive Surgery*.

The Editorial Team has consistently pursued a policy of quality and constancy and so it is pleasing to see that the Impact Factor of the Journal has risen steadily from 0.39 in 1999 to 1.08 in 2005 (see figure). This has also projected *Digestive Surgery* into becoming one of the top 65 surgical journals in the world and at a time when the number of surgical journals is greatly expanding.

The Editors would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Editorial Team, and the large number of Expert Reviewers as well as the readers of *Digestive Surgery* who have made this development possible. *Digestive Surgery* will continue to pursue the policy of excellence and welcomes contributions from those who are committed to developing the field.

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