Seeking Excellence

In my editorial at the beginning of 2006, I had made some predictions as to the development of *Respiration* in the near future, and I am now happy to report they have come true. Firstly, with an ever increasing number of submissions, we were able to reduce the acceptance rate from 30% to 25% overall, as planned. This allowed us to become more selective in the quality of the papers we accept. At a recent meeting of the associate editors, it was decided to further reduce this rate to 20% as of January 2007. This decision was necessary, as we still have an excessive publication time lag; i.e. period from acceptance to printing of an article. To reduce this lag time, we have also published more pages in 2006 than usually, which was made possible thanks to a special grant from the publishing house, S. Karger AG, Basel. A big thank you to S. Karger AG for this! The special feature of publishing 'on-line first', introduced by *Respiration* some time ago, continues to enjoy a lot of support from authors, as their articles are posted on the web a lot earlier than they appear in print. Further, our impact factor (IF) has increased from 1 (1.02) to 1.3 (1.299), which was predicted for the IF 2005 (appearing in 2006). I would like to repeat that in the intermediate term we will aim to surpass an IF of 2.0, which is necessary to achieve our goal to strive for excellence!

As usual, *Respiration* will publish a thematic review series (TRS) running throughout the year. In 2007, the topic is *Clinical Genetics for the Pulmonologist*. The idea came from Prof. V. Cottin, who is the associate editor of the series and introduces it in the following editorial. We are happy to have a very focused topic which should generate a lot of interest. The TRS has become so popular that we currently have a waiting list of topics. We are therefore contemplating publishing a second TRS in 2008, which will obviously depend on the printing space available at the end of the year.

The journal also enjoys great support from the editorial board, which is constantly renewed and expanded. This year, it is my pleasure to introduce no less than six new editorial board members: Marios Froudarakis, Alexandroupolis, Greece; Stefano Gasparini, Ancona, Italy; Marc Humbert, Paris, France; John Mastronarde, Columbus, Ohio; Winfried Randerath, Solingen, Germany; and Ayman O. Soubani, Detroit, Mich. Welcome to the team!

My special thanks go to all members of the editorial board, to the *Respiration* team at S. Karger AG, Basel, as well as to all authors who submit their work in ever increasing numbers to the journal.

C.T. Bolliger
Editor-in-Chief, Cape Town