

Editorials

Respiratory Medicine 1994 – An International Journal

In 1989, the British Journal of Diseases of the Chest took on a new name – *Respiratory Medicine* – and with it a new format and aim, namely to increase the numbers of papers published and its international appeal. In both cases it has succeeded. The British Journal of Diseases of the Chest was published quarterly but *Respiratory Medicine* appeared six times a year and in 1993 the number of issues was increased to eight. 1994 represents another milestone in that ten issues will be published. This will help substantially to overcome one current problem for the Journal, by shortening the period of time between acceptance of original articles for publication and their appearance in print, which is too long. As the Journal has expanded, so has the number of manuscripts received and unfortunately for authors, the rejection rate. Importantly for the Journal and for authors, the impact factor has steadily improved. Together with the increasing number of issues, up to two supplements have been published each year; in 1993 ‘The effects of corticosteroids on bone turnover’ and ‘New approaches in asthma and COPD’. Book reviews are a regular and informative part of the Journal and the vigorous letters section is particularly gratifying. The short editorials and topical reviews are much appreciated and exemplify the international flavour of the Journal with the majority

of commissioned articles in 1993 written by experts from departments outside the United Kingdom.

1994 is a landmark year in the long history of the Journal in that not only are there joint editors, but one is from outside the U.K. The Journal welcomes Ronald Dahl, Associate Professor at the University Hospital Aarhus, in Denmark as joint Editor with Robert Davies. There will be an editorial office for Continental Europe which will be complemented by an editorial office for North America under James Fish, Professor of Medicine at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Initially all manuscripts from Europe will continue to be received at the London office, but after cataloguing, those from mainland Europe will be processed by Aarhus. Manuscripts from the United States will be submitted direct to the Philadelphia office. To continue to expand and further improve its impact rating, *Respiratory Medicine* must become a truly international journal attracting high quality original articles from centres around the world. Under its Joint Editorship and with offices in Continental Europe and North America, *Respiratory Medicine* should succeed in its aims and in the near future become a truly international and monthly publication.

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