

EDITORIAL

Changing of the Guard

James R. Jett, MD

In July 2005, just before the World Congress in Barcelona, I was appointed editor of the nascent *Journal of Thoracic Oncology (JTO)*. The first issue was published in January 2006. As planned, we published nine issues in the first year and expanded to monthly publications in 2007. From the beginning, *JTO* has published on time each month, and in the past few years, each monthly issue is released online at the journal Web site in the middle of the month before the print issue.

In 2006, approximately 300 articles were submitted for review and the acceptance rate was more than 50%. The number of submitted articles has grown to more than 1100 per year, and the acceptance rate is currently about 20%. Simultaneously, the number of published pages has increased from 1100 to 2100. Currently, the *JTO* has editions in Japanese, French, and Chinese, and in the past, had editions in Spanish and Turkish. The latter two have been discontinued because of local funding issues.

Because of the fact that *JTO* was a new journal in 2006, we did not have an official Impact Factor until 2008. Our initial Impact Factor was 3.5, and it was greatly aided by the publication of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer staging articles in 2007. Our current impact factor is 3.66. The citation of *JTO* articles has noticeably increased both in published articles and at scientific meetings, reflecting the increasing quality of *JTO* publications.

JTO is truly an international journal. In 2011, 28% of the submitted articles were from Europe, 27% from North America, and 43% from Asia and Australia. The number of submitted articles from South America is relatively modest, but the numbers are increasing, and there is apparent increased scientific interest in thoracic oncology as demonstrated by the 5th Latin America Conference on Lung Cancer that was held in July 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.

During these last 7 years, *JTO* has been established as an important journal in thoracic oncology. The reasons for that success have been many. First, Mary Sharkey has been the Managing Editor of *JTO* from the beginning and is largely responsible for the successful behind-the-scenes organization and coordination of all articles. She taught me and many of the associate editors how to use the Editorial Manager Web site. David Myers has been our publisher from Lippincott Williams and Wilkins from our beginning in 2005. He is well organized and has been superbly responsive to all of our editorial needs and requests. Mary and David have done an outstanding job.

The Deputy Editor, Dr. David Midthun, has been superb at filling in during my absences over the last 7 years, and he has spearheaded the selection process for our *Image of the Month* category. The Associate Editors have been the backbone of the journal and are largely responsible for the successful peer review process over these years. They have engaged excellent and timely reviews and selected the best articles for publication. All this was done without personal compensation. It was performed out of a sense of commitment to making the *JTO* an outstanding journal. To the Associate Editors, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Finally, we could not have achieved our current level of success without the selfless contribution of our peer reviewers. Their names are

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published each March for the articles reviewed in the previous year. Many of our reviewers review multiple articles each year. Thank you for your tremendous contributions.

Starting January 1, 2013, I will recoup approximately 20 hours per week of my personal life. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding 7 years that I have served as your Editor. There have been many highlights. However, it is time for new leadership at *JTO*. I am delighted to be able to turn

over the reigns to my friend and colleague, Dr. Alex Adjei. He was selected by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Publications Committee. Dr. Adjei and I worked together for 10 years at Mayo Clinic, before each of us moved on to other institutions. I know that Dr. Adjei will be an outstanding editor with a vision of the future and move the *JTO* into the position of being *the premier* journal in thoracic oncology. Good luck Alex!