



Dear Reader,

Why a newsletter for a Respiratory journal you might ask. Let me explain! Since I have taken over *Respiration* as Editor-in-Chief in 1998 I have faithfully written a yearly editor's note about the recent development and future directions of the journal coinciding with the publication of the first issue each year. With the increasing trend of readers to download specific articles of their interest only – in contrast to browsing through a paper version of the journal in the library until some time ago – it is my feeling that the information of my notes is not reaching all readers of and very importantly potential contributors to *Respiration*.

Together with the publisher, S.Karger AG, we have therefore decided to start a "Respiration: News in a nutshell" letter. The plan is to publish it about twice a year; the first issue will be identical to the classic editor's note appearing in January, the second issue around July will cover the most important mid-year news. The "Respiration: News in a nutshell" will be sent out electronically or in paper form where applicable. With this innovation we hope to reach the widest possible audience and thus further enhance the rapid growth of *Respiration*.

Best wishes

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



Editor's Note

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The Right Direction

In 2008, the number of yearly issues of *Respiration* has been increased from 6 in 1 volume to 8 in 2 volumes of 4. I am happy to report that this increase in print volume has resulted in completely eliminating the remaining print publication backlog, i.e. reducing the number of accepted articles already published online awaiting printing in paper form.

The ever-increasing number of submissions shows that we move in the right direction, and, as already announced a year ago, after another year with 8 issues in 2009, the journal will most likely go on to being published monthly as of 2010. Coupled to the increase in the number of submissions is a fast improvement of quality of the average article we receive. We will continue to accept about 20% of all papers reporting original investigations. For the newly introduced section of Novel Insights from Clinical Practice (NICP), however, the acceptance rate will continue at below 5%. The NICP section replaces the original case reports, and authors must provide two 'bullet boxes' mentioning the 'established facts' and the 'new insights' gained by their report. As a recommendation to potential authors I would like to emphasize that filling in these boxes before submission should be a very easy and quick task if the paper really reports 'novel' insights. If, on the other hand, authors struggle to formulate the content of these boxes, the information provided will probably not be that 'novel' and the likelihood of acceptance is remote. The format of the NICP should therefore be helpful for authors; it certainly has been for reviewers.

Let us quickly mention the impact factor (IF) again. As predicted, the steady increase continued with the 2007 IF reaching 1.931 up from 1.649 in the previous year. With the current trend we should finally cross the barrier of 2 for the 2008 IF (appearing in 2009). In comparison to other respiratory journals, *Respiration* is also moving up in the ranking, which means that we are growing faster than the majority of the other journals in our group.

The introduction of one article per issue being singled out as the Editor's Choice has been hugely successful. As these articles are chosen by all associate editors (AE) on a rotational basis, their topics cover the entire field of respiratory medicine. After an article has been selected, it is immediately made available full text on the web free of charge. And judging by the high download rate, this feature has been welcomed by readers, and thus the Editor's Choice has now become firmly established.

Respiration's well known Thematic Review Series will also continue in 2009 with two themes being addressed with 4 articles each: the first series is on cardiopulmonary exercise testing with guest editors Dario Olivieri and Alfredo Chetta, Italy, and the second series on sleep apnea is edited by Winfried Randerath, Germany. The individual topics promise another set of top review articles. Each series will be introduced by the respective editors.

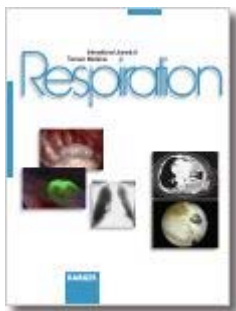
Finally, there are some important changes in the composition of our editorial board to be announced. At the end of 2008, we say goodbye to Erich Russi, University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland, who, after many years of fantastic work as AE, is leaving the board. Erich has been one of the pillars on our board who has been instrumental for the growth of *Respiration* thanks to his reliable and high-level work. Thank you Erich! But as a true member of the 'family', he made sure that the support of his university continues by suggesting his second-in-command Konrad Bloch to replace him; luckily for us, Konrad immediately accepted this task and will join us as AE in January 2009. In order to cope with the sharp increase in our workload, another nine AEs have joined us during the course of 2008: Ian Adcock, London, UK, Fan Chung, London, UK, Stefano Gasparini, Ancona, Italy, Jürg Hammer, Basel, Switzerland, Joachim Müller-Quernheim, Freiburg, Germany, Christophe Doms, Leuven, Belgium, Vincent Cottin, Lyon, France, Laurent Nicod, Lausanne, Switzerland, and Gene Colice, Washington, D.C., USA.

We are also happy to announce the new editorial board members: Prashant Chhajed, Mumbai, India, and E. Rand Sutherland, Denver, Colo., USA. These top level specialists in their respective fields will be crucial for the further accelerated upward move that I foresee for *Respiration* in the near future.

As usual, I would like to sign off with a big thank you for the fantastic support I receive from the people at the publishing house, who share my unbroken enthusiasm for *Respiration*.

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

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