Editors’ Report 2005

We are pleased to present our report for the year 2005.

Journal statistics
During 2005 the Journal published 149 original research papers (including nine short reports), 12 Editors’ Views, eight reviews, 16 letters, one case report, one commentary, seven book reviews, and one Editors’ report. Proceedings of the Clinical Section of the British Pharmacological Society, the Dutch Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmacy, and the London Hypertension Society were also published.

In all, 407 articles were submitted (a 10% increase on 2004), of which 289 were main papers and 57 were short reports. Of the new papers submitted, 145 were accepted and 163 were rejected. The remaining submissions are still pending a final decision. Based on these figures, the journal had a 47% acceptance rate. Submissions came from 50 countries (compared with 44 last year): UK (81), USA (44), Netherlands (30), Japan (25), France (25), Australia (21), Germany (19), Spain (13), Denmark (11), Italy (10), India (10), others (<10 each).

There were 23 reviews submitted (commissioned and uncommissioned), of which nine were rejected; 11 were accepted, of which eight have been published, and two are under review.

The impact factor increased slightly, to 2.546.

Practical matters
All papers are submitted and handled electronically via the Manuscript Central website. The mean time from submission (the date on which the paper is received at the Editorial Office) to assignment to an Executive Editor by an Editor was 10.6 days. The time from submission to first recommendation by the Executive Editor was 53.7 days. The time from submission to acceptance by the Editor (including the time taken by authors to submit revisions) was 102.8 days. These figures show a turnover of papers that is not as rapid as last year; this reflects a number of difficulties that accompanied the migration to Manuscript Central version 3, which have now been resolved. In contrast, 197 papers were published in OnLine Early, the mean time to appearance being 85 days from acceptance, a figure that depends in part on the speed with which authors correct proofs; this represents an enormous improvement on the 2004 figure for the time to appearance in the print version (6.5 months), and we are confident that this innovation will be much appreciated by authors, since work is citable as soon as it appears in OnLine Early. Indeed, it is now commonplace for papers to be cited in databases such as Pubmed before they appear in print.

During 2005 we introduced the important innovation of selecting papers to be the subjects of press releases, intended to heighten public awareness of current research and other issues in clinical pharmacology. In this we are ably assisted by Annette Whibley of Wizard Communications, to whom we offer our grateful thanks.

Editorial boards
In January 2005 we opened an office in North America under our North American Editor, Lionel D Lewis from Dartmouth College, Lebanon, New Hampshire. We are encouraged that the number of submissions from the USA in 2005 was 44, up from 35 in 2004, and there were 11 submissions from other parts of the Americas (Canada 5, Brazil 4, Venezuela 1, and Chile 1). The following changes to the Editorial Boards were made. GM Shenfield and PJ Vallance retired from the Executive Editorial Board; A Gross (from Australia, previously an International Editor) and DA Flockhart (from the USA) joined the Executive Editorial Board. H Chrystyn, J Posner, and R F Schäfers have all served four years and will serve for a further three. K-E Andersson, SE Clarke, J Drewe, S Evans, W Haefeli, IP Hall, F Kamali, J Slattery, T Stephenson, S Thomas, and HH Zhou have all served for four years on the International Editorial Board, and will serve for a further term (either 3 or 4 years to avoid a large cohort of departures in 3 years). A MacLachlan has replaced AS Gross on the International Board, which is also strengthened by RM Weinshilboum, extending North American representation, and J Feely from Dublin.
The Editors thank all the Board Members for their contributions over the years.

Innovations in 2005
The Journal’s Management Board met three times in 2005 and on a further occasion in conjunction with the members of the Editorial Boards. Among initiatives discussed were:

• fostering links with the British Journal of Pharmacology by mutually highlighting forthcoming papers in the sister journal;
• an annual Prize to the author of the paper judged to be the best published by a specialist registrar in the Journal; a formal proposal was agreed by the BPS Council, and this will be implemented in 2006;
• a change in copyright: it is no longer a requirement of the Journal that authors assign copyright to the publishers. Authors are, however, required to give licence to publish their paper.
• participation in Blackwell’s scheme, Online Open, a pay-to-publish service that offers authors whose papers are accepted for publication the opportunity to pay up front for their articles to become open access immediately via the Blackwell Synergy website. Each Online Open article is subject to a one-off fee of £1250. Upon online publication, the article is available to all for viewing and downloading free of charge. Three sets of authors have opted for Online Open publication since the initiative was launched in August. All reviews and Editors’ Views articles are also freely available in this way.

Acknowledgements and thanks
We are grateful for the continued support given to the Management Board by the Society’s Executive Officer, Sarah-Jane Stagg, and its Honorary Treasurer, Arthur Weston. The Society also has pleasure in acknowledging the crucial support of several key individuals from Blackwell Publishing: Editorial Assistant Colleen Wray, who took over from Jennifer Powell when Jennifer moved to Vancouver, and Production Editor Craig Devin, who took over from Martin Tilly; like their predecessors, they run their respective offices with great efficiency and friendliness. Sarah Hayton gave further assistance in promoting the Journal and in preparing versions of the Instructions to Authors. And last but certainly not least, we thank Elizabeth Whelan for her wisdom, enthusiasm, and longstanding commitment to the Journal.

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