

EDITORIAL

## Anaesthesia organizations in Europe: a coming together

The European Academy of Anaesthesiology (EAA) invited me to become Chairman of the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Anaesthesiology* (EJA) in 1997. I will hand over this responsibility to Professor Brian Pollard in June 2000 because the Board and the EAA have invited me to assume the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Journal from January 1st 2000. Various societies and organizations concerning anaesthesiology in Europe are coming together within the framework of what might best be termed an umbrella organization, called the European Federation of Anaesthesiologists (EFA), with the aim of harmonizing their activities. Last year, the Fondation Européenne d'Enseignement en Anesthésiologie (FEEA) adopted the EJA as their official journal. The FEEA organizes excellent teaching courses throughout Europe and publishes educational books and monographs. Review articles from the FEEA will be published in tandem with our regular reviews in the Journal. Later in 1999 the following organizations adopted the EJA as their official Journal: the Confederation of the European National Societies of Anaesthesiologists (CENSA) (formerly called the European Section of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiology (WFSA) and well-known to all anaesthesiologists; the Anaesthesia Section of the European Union of Medical Specialists (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes, or UEMS). The UEMS is the official advisory body of the European Community on all issues related to health care and professional and related subjects. Also in 1999 the EJA became the official journal of the European Society of Anaesthesiologists (ESA) and the

Journal will publish the abstracts of the annual ESA scientific meetings as a supplement from 2000 onwards. The ESA is the body who will now be responsible for the organization of the largest European scientific meetings for practising anaesthesiologists. Thus the major players in European Anaesthesiology are now coming together and are associated with the Journal. Moreover, our paid subscription base continues to increase, which is particularly heartening.

The Journal moved to monthly publication from January of last year. The growth of means of electronic communications has permitted the Editors more easily and rapidly to receive and reply to editorial communications with each other and with our authors. There is a tremendous amount of expertise, both in the clinical and basic science senses, concerning anaesthesiology and related disciplines in Europe: the Editors are very conscious of the valuable and painstaking help we receive from our numerous experts and referees from many countries who help us evaluate manuscripts submitted to the Journal. Information about the EJA can be accessed from the web site homepage of our publishers, Blackwell Science (<http://www.blackwell-science.com/eja>); here contents pages can be viewed, and in some instances free downloads of papers are possible. In common with other international journals, all will be able to access free tables of contents and abstracts of all material published in the Journal. Access to the full electronic content will be dependent on taking out an electronic subscription to the Journal.

**Anthony P. Adams**

*Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Board*