

Editorial

The *Journal* is just completing another busy year. We have received 590 papers and have published 243. One supplement entitled 'It works – the patients say so: evidence base for aural rehabilitation with bone-anchored hearing aids' was published in June. In July we introduced the rewritten 'Instruction to Authors' and at the same time introduced a new section 'How I do it' and the 'Fast Tracking' of suitable main articles. As from January 2003 the fast tracked articles will be identified by a suitable symbol.

We sadly lost two very important members of our team. Dr Peter Phelps died in February, he overcame his profound deafness which prevented him from taking up a surgical career and became a world authority on radiology of the ear, nose and throat. Professor Imrich Friedmann who died in July this year was associated with the *Journal* for very many years and continued to give us advice and encouragement almost up to his death. Full obituaries of both these colleagues have appeared in the *Journal*.

The JLO Visiting Professors for 2002 were Professor William Wei from Hong Kong who spoke at the Royal Society of Medicine and in Dublin, Sheffield and Newcastle and Professor Saumil Merchant who spoke to the RSM and unfortunately because of a very tight schedule was unable on this occasion to speak at any regional centres. Two JLO Travelling Fellowships were granted for 2002. Mr Jaydip Ray is to travel to The House Ear Institute in Los Angeles and to visit Professor Robert Jackler at the University of California, San Francisco and Mr S. D. Thompson will be visiting Professor Petra Ambrosch at the University of Kiel, Germany.

We were sorry to receive the resignations of David Wright and Carol Wengraf from the Board of Directors. Both have contributed enormously to the Journal. David Wright initially worked with John Ballantyne and Carol Wengraf joined as an Assistant Editor during the editorship of John Booth. Both have also given wise council in their capacity as Directors. They have been replaced by Mr Robin Youngs and Professor Nick Stafford. Dr Tim Beale (Consultant Radiologist at the Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital) and Dr Jon Bennett (Consultant Pathologist at Eastman Dental Hospital) have joined us as Assistant Editors.

We are grateful to RSM Press for their continued support and in particular to Lisa Colledge who has recently left the Press to follow a new career. We welcome Liz Turner who has replaced her. The following have kindly acted as referees during 2002. We are indebted to them for the time that they have given to the *Journal*.

G Bates	M Dilkes	A Parker
W Barratt	A Drake-Lee	J Patten
Professor B A Bell	C East	Professor Alison Perry
D Bowdler	G Evans	G Pond
Professor S Bown	Professor A Ferlito	A Prichard
G Brookes	K Gibbin	D Roberts
M Brown	Professor M Gleeson	S Rose
P Bull	B Glindzicz	S Saeed
Professor R Cartwright	M Harries	L Savy
Borka Ceranic	B Hartley	N Solomons
R Cerio	J Hazel	P Taylor
S Chavda	Professor I Hindmarch	A Timmis
J Cherry	D Howard	M Timms
R Clarke	A Johnson	R Wall
Professor R Coles	J Leigh	Professor W Wei
B Colvin	Lesley Mathieson	Susan Weir
J Cook	J McGlashen	Vivienne Weston
M Cook	K McKenzie	S Whitaker
G Cox	Anne-Marie McNichol	Peter Wilkin
S Crean	Professor A Newlands	Professor Janet Wilson
C Croft	J Oates	
R Dawber	Professor G O'Donoghue	

As ever we are greatly indebted to Gillian Goldfarb, our production editor, and Jennifer Almond, our sub-editor, for the huge amount of work they have put in to maintain the high standards of the *Journal*. Finally, we wish to thank all our contributors and readers for their continued support of the *Journal*. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

NEIL WEIR and GUY KENYON
EDITORS