

## EDITORIAL

### A year of changes for the editorial staff

The fact that I am writing this Editorial in August for it to appear in the December issue of the *British Journal of Nutrition* serves as a reminder of the inevitable delay between sending material for typesetting and its eventual publication. A similar delay of course applies between making changes to the content and style of the Journal and the receipt of any comments that these changes may produce. Very satisfactorily in this case, the wait has been worthwhile.

I have just returned from the 16th International Congress of Nutrition in Montreal, where The Nutrition Society had a display stand, and everyone who visited our stand there, or who has written or spoken to me in the Editorial Office, has been very complimentary about the changes already made to the *BJN* and the *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society* since our change of publishers at the end of 1996. Now that we are fast approaching the end of our first full year with CAB INTERNATIONAL it seems appropriate to reflect on changes already made and those about to be made.

The changes made so far can be loosely grouped into those affecting Journal content and those affecting its appearance. Of the former, undoubtedly the two most important are the inclusion of reviews in the *BJN* and the publication of supplements, both of which should serve to increase the Journal's appeal to its readers and its impact factor. In addition to these there are the Invited Commentaries, Guest Editorials and the Nutrition Discussion Forum. One feature that I have particularly enjoyed this year is the series of Guest Editorials from former Honorary Editors reflecting on how the *BJN* has developed in its first 50 years, and how the Journal and nutrition itself may develop in the next 50 years.

Changes that affect the Journal's appearance include the lamination of the cover, the improvements to the paper quality and the inclusion of an additional Contents List at the front of each issue. All of these have elicited favourable comments. Other changes now in the pipeline include the move to American A4 size with a double column format, and a series of alterations to typeface to improve readability of text headings, running heads, references, tables and figures. These changes will be discussed in more detail by Keith Frayn, the Honorary Editor, in his next Editorial, and will be incorporated into the new Directions to Contributors to appear in the January 1998 issue.

All of these changes improve the Journal's appeal to its readers, but in addition there have been changes to the Editorial Board structure and reviewing procedures designed to improve its appeal to authors. Among these are the appointment of an additional Deputy Chair (Brittmarie Sandström) to help reduce first decision times, and of a Supplements Editor (Christine Williams) to manage the increasing amount of supplement material the *BJN* is attracting. Coupled with the reduction in time to first decision and the earlier publication times of each issue (achieved through a tighter publication schedule arranged with CABI) is the assertion, once again, that there will be no page charges levied on authors who publish in the *BJN*.

In August the Editorial Office was responsible for the launch of The Nutrition Society Web site and the Homepage can be found at <http://www.nutsoc.org.uk>. The content of the Web site will be managed from the Editorial Office and I will be happy to receive (on diskette) material from Groups and Sections of the Society for addition to the site. A

regularly updated list of forthcoming Society meetings and information for members will also be included, and the contents pages of the Society journals will also be accessible via a link to the CABI Web site. Contact the Editorial Office for further details.

In a year when so much has happened in all aspects of journal publication, I must give praise and thanks where they are deserved, namely to the editorial staff of the Nutrition Society: Diana Bedford (formerly Mitchelmore) and Allison Mathers in the Hammersmith Office, Christine Hughes (who completed 25 years with the journals this year) and Sue Kingman, our technical editors, and Anne Gurr, our proofreader. All of them have made a major contribution to a very busy and successful fiftieth year of the *BJN*, our first in collaboration with CAB INTERNATIONAL. My thanks to them, and to our partners at CABI, and here's to an even more successful next 50 years.

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Executive Editor