

# Annual report

## Annual Report October 2000 to September 2001

This has been our busiest year as editors of *Thorax*, continuing the trend reported last year.<sup>1</sup> The number of submissions to the journal has risen again, particularly for original papers (table 1). The geographical distribution of submissions continues to reflect the international flavour of the journal, and for the first time we received more submissions from Western Europe than from the UK (table 2). Our acceptance rate (table 3) and the time to first decisions have been similar to previous years, and we have continued our policy of trying to give a rapid decision and also only publishing the best papers in the journal (table 4).

The impact factor has risen further and we are now third among the respiratory journals, just behind the two American Thoracic Society publications.<sup>2</sup> We have continued to

Table 1 Impact factor and articles submitted by category

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Impact factor	1.56	2.31	2.86	3.44	3.98	
Original research						
Full papers	415	411	398	453	505	573
Short papers	51	40	31	36	34	36
Rapid communications	5	5	7	3	6	9
Case reports	247	212	211	149	165	186
Editorials/reviews	38	53	81	57	56	55
Review series	31	26	13	19	14	15
Supplement articles	41	29	17	16	46	5
Case report commentaries	11	7	7	0	0	0
Letters	50	55	72	9	96	95
Total	889	838	837	812	922	974

Table 2 Geographical distribution of submissions

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
UK	320	303	265	326	348	323
Western Europe	264	236	242	230	268	345
Spain	42	45	44	37	38	46
The Netherlands	44	49	41	40	51	50
Italy	48	19	38	40	36	65
France	28	24	27	26	34	33
Turkey	14	22	20	17	27	36
Israel	17	15	10	13	8	16
Eire	8	7	5	2	5	2
Switzerland	13	9	5	5	9	18
Germany	26	23	20	29	31	37
Belgium	12	11	10	10	5	14
Greece	7	6	15	6	12	13
Austria	5	5	3	4	10	7
Portugal	0	0	2	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	2	1	1	0
Andorra	0	0	0	0	1	0
USA and Canada	71	84	76	81	87	68
Japan	53	64	46	54	56	69
Australasia	31	60	48	38	60	57
Scandinavia	32	39	36	38	41	49
Asia	26	26	35	30	39	26
Eastern Europe	10	3	6	4	9	16
South America	10	3	3	1	5	7
Africa	4	4	3	3	4	5
Middle East	5	9	5	7	5	8

Table 3 Decision of papers submitted 2000/2001 as at 30 September 2001

	Case reports	Papers	Short papers
Total	186	571	36
Rejected	143 (76%)	358 (62%)	27 (75%)
Accepted	8 (4%)	57 (9%)	1 (2%)
Pending	34 (18%)	155 (27%)	8 (22%)
Withdrawn	1	1	—

Table 4 Median time to first decision (days)

	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/2000	2000/1
Full papers	44.5	56	48.5	56	76
Short papers	38	24	11.5	28	33

publish strong review series,<sup>3,4</sup> as well as smoking cessation guidelines,<sup>5</sup> BTS guidelines on control and prevention of tuberculosis,<sup>6</sup> a supplement on aspirin induced asthma,<sup>7</sup> and the *Year in Review*.<sup>8</sup> We hope that *Thorax* has continued to inform, educate, stimulate, and debate, and that it will continue to do so in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the associate editors, the advisory board, and our managers at the BMJ Publishing Group who have ensured that the journal has run smoothly. We thank the editorial assistants who have been running the journal for the last year. Hilary, Caroline and, more recently, Laura have done a superb job in keeping the journal on track. To those authors who experienced delay with their submissions at the beginning of the year when we were without our full complement of editorial assistant support, we apologise. We thank our reviewers who again have done an excellent job and whose names are listed on page 984. Finally, we would like to thank the scientific respiratory community who sent us papers as, without the high quality submissions that you send us, the journal would not be what it is today.

A J KNOX  
J BRITTON  
Executive Editors

- 1 Britton J, Knox AJ. Annual report October 1999 to September 2000. *Thorax* 2000;55:986.
- 2 Knox AJ, Britton J. Journal impact factors for 2000: *Thorax* flying yet higher. *Thorax* 2001;56:587.
- 3 Sly PD, Stick S. Paediatric origins of adult lung disease. Introduction. *Thorax* 2000;55:585–6.
- 4 Knox AJ. Respiratory diseases in pregnancy. Introduction. *Thorax* 2001;56:324.
- 5 West R, McNeill A, Raw A. Smoking cessation guidelines for health care professionals: an update. *Thorax* 2000;55:987–99.
- 6 Joint Tuberculosis Committee of the British Thoracic Society. Control and practice of tuberculosis in the UK. *Thorax* 2000;55:887–901.
- 7 Knox AJ, Szczeklik A, Patriarca G. Aspirin intolerance and related syndromes. Introduction. *Thorax* 2000;55(Suppl 2):S1.
- 8 Mitchell DM, Shaheen SO, Woodcock AA. 2001 Year in Review. Introduction. *Thorax* 2001;56(Suppl 1):i1.