

## Annual report

# Thorax annual report: 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2004

J A Wedzicha, S L Johnston, D M Mitchell

The past year—and the second year of our editorship—has been a very successful one for *Thorax*.<sup>1–2</sup> We have continued to receive high quality papers for publication and our impact factor for 2003 now stands at 4.188.<sup>3</sup> This means that *Thorax* is now the second highest ranked of the traditional respiratory journals in terms of impact factor, behind the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, and has now overtaken the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*.

The journal impact factor for 2003 is calculated as the number of citations in 2003 to papers published in *Thorax* in 2001 and 2002. The changes in impact factor for *Thorax* from 1996 to 2003 and a comparison with the impact factors for the other main respiratory journals are shown in fig 1.<sup>3–5</sup> The impact factor of a journal depends on the number of high quality papers that it publishes and this is influenced by the rigour of the peer review in the journal.<sup>6</sup> For some time now, in addition to regular peer review in *Thorax*, all potentially acceptable papers have been subject to statistical review and this has had a positive effect on the quality of the papers we have published. The impact factor is also affected by the number of articles published in a journal and this makes up the denominator of the impact factor equation. Some specialist journals have reduced—often quite dramatically—the number of papers they publish. However, the number of articles (excluding editorials and letters) published in *Thorax* has remained relatively constant, with 183 articles in 2001, 210 in 2002, and 198 in 2003. The improvement in the impact factor therefore reflects the increased number of citations in the medical literature to *Thorax* papers.

The number of submissions to *Thorax* has increased further compared with last year; from October 2002 to September 2003 the number of submissions was 1260 and this has now risen to 1597 between October 2003 and September 2004. The number of original research articles submitted to the journal has also increased from 860 last year

to 1028. Table 1 shows the number of submissions to *Thorax* by article type.

We have also seen an increase in submissions from outside the UK, with an especially sharp rise in submissions from Europe and continuing increases from North America, Canada, Asia Pacific, and Australasia. Table 2 shows the geographical distribution of submissions to *Thorax*.

The time to the first decision on a paper has reduced to a median of 27.5 days. However, the increased number of submissions means the acceptance rate for original research papers now stands at only 12%, and 6% for case reports.

This year we have published some important original papers and useful management guidelines for common conditions such as radiologically guided lung biopsy in November 2003<sup>7–8</sup> and the NICE COPD guidelines in March 2004,<sup>9–10</sup> with a description of the peer review process that was followed during the development of the guidelines.<sup>11</sup> A number of review series on common and important issues in respiratory medicine have been published in the journal. We have completed the popular review series on lung cancer<sup>12–14</sup> and started new review series on cough,<sup>15–22</sup> sleep disordered breathing,<sup>23–28</sup> and  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin deficiency.<sup>29–34</sup> Sadly, Moran Campbell died this year and John Gibson—in a truly splendid article in the journal—described his remarkable achievements as a clinician, researcher, and teacher.<sup>35</sup> We also published a report on the British Thoracic Society Winter meeting held in London in December 2003.<sup>36</sup>

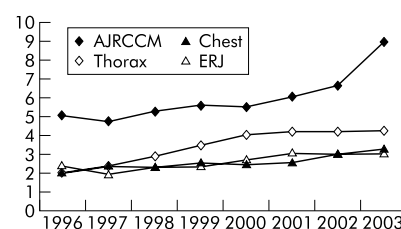


Figure 1 Impact factors for main respiratory journals.

We have continued a number of features aimed at improving the educational value of *Thorax*. Every month we produce an “Airwaves” section at the front of the journal with short paragraphs highlighting the key messages of some of the papers in the issue. The Lung Alerts, in which we publish short reviews of respiratory papers in other general and specialist journals, are very popular.<sup>37</sup> We have had an excellent response to our call to younger *Thorax* readers for help with this feature, and we are very grateful to all the contributors who have made it such a success this year. We would like to thank Angshu Bhowmik and John Hurst for organising the Lung Alerts each month and keeping strictly to all the journal publication deadlines. The *Thorax* website ([www.thoraxjnl.com](http://www.thoraxjnl.com)) has proved very popular and our 10 most frequently read articles online in 2003 had a total of 104 602 accesses as either full text, PDF versions, or as abstracts.<sup>38–47</sup>

In November 2003 we launched a new monthly educational series called “Images in *Thorax*” in which we publish a radiological image or a pathological section with a short explanatory note and a few educational points.<sup>48</sup> This has proved very popular already and we have had numerous interesting submissions (table 1). The Images series is now available free of charge in a collection on the *Thorax* website (<http://thorax.bmjournals.com/cgi/collection/images>). Our thanks to Mark Fitzgerald and his team of Nestor Muller and Jim Hogg in Vancouver for organising this section each month.

We would like to thank all our authors who have sent us such high quality papers for review. The number of letters to the editor submitted to the journal has also increased this year and we encourage submission of both letters commenting on published articles and also research letters describing original results that may be of a pilot nature. Please see the website for instructions concerning submissions of letters to *Thorax*. We would like to thank all the many reviewers who have given up their valuable time to assess papers for *Thorax* and contributed to the success of the journal.<sup>49</sup> A list of all the reviewers for *Thorax* during the past 12 months is published after this editorial.

Our thanks go to all the Associate Editors who have provided invaluable help in selecting the best papers for publication and to the International Advisory Board for their support of the journal. During the year we held a meeting in November 2003 in London with all the Editors and Associate Editors and another meeting with the *Thorax* Advisory Board at the ATS

**Table 1** Submissions to *Thorax* by article type

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Original research					
Full papers	505	573	592	860	1028
Short papers	34	36	44	N/A	N/A
Rapid communications	6	9	6	N/A	N/A
Case reports	165	186	146	211	285
Editorials/reviews	56	55	33	77	104
Review series	14	15	40	26	12
Supplement articles	46	5	16	N/A	N/A
Letters	96	95	70	82	99
Images in <i>Thorax</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	69
Total	922	974	947	1260	1597

**Table 2** Geographical distribution of submissions

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
UK	348	323	325	378	398
Europe excluding UK	310	386	329	437	527
USA and Canada	87	68	74	126	146
Japan	56	69	74	99	107
Australasia	60	57	45	67	86
Asia	39	26	41	85	125
South America	5	7	6	21	23
Africa	4	5	1	6	11
Middle East	13	24	21	21	26

Meeting in Orlando, USA in May 2004. Ed Howard, our editorial assistant, has performed a superb job in running the journal and in June we were delighted that he was promoted to a new post in BMJ Publishing of Development Editor. Ed now has charge of a number of journals but still has an active role in the administration of *Thorax*. Julia Cresswell, who previously worked part time for the journal, is now our full time editorial assistant. We would like to thank Ed and Julia for all their hard work over the year to ensure that the journal runs smoothly and efficiently. We also thank Andrea Horgan, the managing editor, for all her support and advice and Liz Stockman, the technical editor, for ensuring that the monthly issues of *Thorax* are produced to the highest standard. Finally, we would like to thank Ed Neville, Sheila Edwards and the BTS for their support of *Thorax* over the year.

This has been a very busy year for the journal and, with the increase in high quality submissions, this has resulted in a relatively high rejection rate. We apologise to those authors who feel that we have not returned the appropriate decisions on their papers. However, with the increase in submissions this year we can assure you all a very successful journal in the coming year. The goal of our work as editors is to ensure that each month all *Thorax* readers can find something of interest to read in the journal.

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## REVIEWERS USED BETWEEN 1 OCTOBER 2003 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

R Aalbers	S Bell	A Chang	R Dhand	R Garrod	S Holland	A Knox	G Marks
S Aaron	D Bellamy	R Channick	A Diacon	L Gattinoni	J Holloway	L Kobzik	R Marshall
I Adcock	R Benson	M Chan-Yeung	G Diette	J Gea	J P Homasson	T Koga	J Martin
B Adel	M Berger	A Chaouat	W Dik	D Geddes	S Hooper	D Kohler	R Martin
K Adler	D Bergmans	C Chaparro	P Dilworth	J Gerritsen	I Horvath	J Kolbe	F Martinez
E Aertgeerts	S Bergeón	A Chauhan	G Dimopoulos	J Gibson	M Hotopf	K Kostikas	N Maskell
A Agusti	J-F Bernaudin	F Chen	R Dinwiddie	N Gibson	D Howell	H Kramer	J Massie
T Ajithkumar	D Bernstein	H-H Chen	M Divjak	P Gibson	S Howie	C Kroegel	P Matricardi
M Akira	M Berridge	A Chetta	R Djukanovic	M Giral	R Hubbard	N Krug	M Max
F Alabi	W Biernacki	P Chhajed	H Dockrell	A Glanville	W Hubbard	N Kuenzli	R Maynard
S Aldington	D Bilton	E Chilvers	G Doering	N Glasgow	D Hui	R Kuhlen	M McElroy
N Alexis	S Birring	M Chilvers	M Dolovich	J Glassroth	J Hull	P Lackie	R McEvoy
S Allen	H Bisgaard	S Chinn	G Donaldson	F Gleeson	J Hunt	F Laghi	R McFadden Jr
E Alton	P Bishop	S-H Cho	L Donnelly	J Glynn	J Hurst	C Lai	L McGarvey
K Alving	L Bjerner	D Christiani	J Dorin	D Godden	S Hussain	F Lake	S McKenzie
R Alý	P Black	F Chung	N Douglas	S Godfrey	C Infante-Rivard	L Lands	T McManus
B Ameredes	C Blackburn	A Churg	J Douglass	M Goetz	A Innes	C Laroche	K McNeil
R Amin	J Blakey	C Ciudad	I Doull	D Gold	M Ioanas	J Larson	W McNicholas
H Amital	F Blasi	N Clark	R du Bois	D Goldblatt	A Ionescu	D Laws	C McSharry
D Anantham	K Bloch	E Clini	A Duarte	Roger Goldstein	R Irwin	W Lawson	A Mehta
G Anderson	A Boehler	J Coghlan	C Duboucher	Ron Goldstein	D Israel-Biet	B Leahy	P Merkus
S Andreas	W Boersma	S Cohen	R Dweik	F Gordo	J Ivanyi	R Lemanske Jr	T Mickleborough
T Andrew	A Bohadana	R Coker	K Eastham	R Gosselink	A Jackson	W Lenney	J Miles
G Anhalt	S Bonini	J Coleman	P Eastwood	A Greening	A Jaffe	T F Leung	A Millar
N Anthonisen	G Borasio	D Collie	F Edenborough	C Griffiths	R Jagoe	P Levy	R Miller
M Antonelli	G Bothamley	A Condliffe	A Edwards	M Griffiths	A James	G Lewith	G Mills
G Antunes	J Bott	S Connellan	J Egan	T Griffiths	H Jansen	N Li	M Miravittles
B Antus	D Bours	G Connett	N Eiser	K Grimwood	C Janson	R Light	E Mitchell
R Aris	J Bousquet	M Connolly	S Elborn	D Groneberg	J Janssen	C H Lim	M Moffatt
P Arkwright	R Boyton	A Coonar	M Elliott	N Gross	M Janssen-Heijnen	D W T Lim	P Monagle
L Armstrong	P Bradding	D Cooper	J Emerson	S Guerra	N Jarad	W S Lim	E Monso
K Ashutosh	D Bradley	G Cooper	M Emura	C Guilleminault	D Jarvis	M Lipman	H Montgomery
J Aspa	P Brand	P Cooper	G Egleman	T Gustafsson	P Jeffery	M Lipsett	P Montuschi
L Atzori	C Braun-Fahrlander	J-F Cordier	M Ennis	T Haathela	A Jeffrey	B Lipworth	Y Moodley
M Aubier	R Breen	M Corey	P Enright	H Hakanarson	J Johansson	A Litonjua	J Moore
P Aurora	C Brightling	C Corrigan	S Ericksson	H Halliday	A Johnson	H Lode	J Moore-Gillon
A Awomoyi	J Brisman	P Corris	A Ernst	D Halpin	B Johnson	C-G Lofdahl	M Morgan
N Ayas	J Britton	M Cosio	P Ernst	D Hansell	I Johnston	E Lombardi	A Morice
J Ayres	R Brouillette	U Costabel	M Errington	F Hargreave	S Johnson	K Lui	M Morrell
W Bailey	J Brown	M Cotton	S Erzurum	M Harries	A Jones	M Luisetti	N Morrell
A Baisi	K Brown	E Creutzberg	M Everard	M-A Harris	P Jones	S Lum	M Morris
Y Balabanova	S Brown	A Crockett	M Extermann	B Harrison	G Joos	B Lundback	J Moxham
A Baldi	B Brunekreef	A Croft	T Fahey	T Harrison	M Joyce-Brady	B Lundgren	M Muers
D Baldwin	V Brusasco	A Crossan	L Fairclough	N Hart	M Judson	G Lungarella	D Murdoch
I Balfour-Lynn	P S Burge	P Cullinan	A Faith	T Hartert	B Jung	E Lyn	A Musani
M Ballmann	N Burrows	S Cunningham	R Farre	J Harvey	E Juniper	D Lynch	D Musher
E Bancalari	A Bush	A Custovic	B Faourex	J Haughney	M Kaji	F Macbeth	P Nafstad
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H Bandla	C Byrnes	S E Dahlén	D Fennell	A Hayward	F Kanat	G Macfarlane	B Nemery
A Banerjee	M Cabana	G D'Antona	R Fergusson	L Heaney	H Kanazawa	J Macfarlane	A Newman-Taylor
A Bankier	T Cagatay	J D'Armiento	M Ferrer	R Kanner	R Kanner	J MacFarlane	R Newson
E Baraldi	P Calverley	M Davey	A Fine	J Heffner	J Kaprio	G MacGregor	T Nicolai
C Barber	J Calvert	B Davidson	D Fishwick	R Hegele	W MacNee	W MacNee	T Ninan
A Barker	I Campbell	C Davidson	J-W Fitting	R Heinzer	S Madge	S Madge	G Nixon
R Barker	M Campbell	M Davie	D Fitzgerald	P Helms	U Keil	M J Mador	H Nogami
F Barlesi	G Canny	P Davies	M Fitzpatrick	J Henderson	F Kelly	K Maghni	A Nomura
N Barnes	J Cantor	R Davies	D Fleming	D Hendrick	M Kelly	H Magnusson	P Noone
E Barreiro	M Carby	F Daxboeck	L Flores-Suarez	R Henning	A Kendrick	R Mahadeva	M O'Driscoll
E Bar-Yishay	I Carey	F De Baets	A Fogarty	M Henry	K Kerr	R Mahajan	K O'Byrne
E Bateman	K H Carlsen	J de Bruyne	H Folgering	M Hetzel	H Kerstjens	D Mahler	C O'Connor
J Batenburg	K Carlsen	J De Gracia	B Fonseca	C Hewson	T Kettle	A Majeeed	W Oddy
B Battistini	A C Carvalho	J de Jongste	G Fontana	P Hiemstra	S Kharitonov	H Mäkelä	M O'Doherty
S Baudouin	R Casaburi	R de Marco	J Forbes	T Higenbottom	J Kidney	P Mallia	D O'Donnell
B Baughman	P Cassano	E Dean	J Fowleraker	B Higgins	J Kiely	J-L Malo	S O'Hickey
C Beardsmore	D Cataldo	M Decramer	A Frew	M Hill	J Kimoff	F Maltais	D Olivieri
R Beasley	M Cazzola	R Dekhuijzen	N Galie	D Galetta	G King	J Mancini	L Olson
R Beck	N Cebi	A Denjean	C Gallagher	N Galie	J Kirk	A Manhire	D Orenstein
M Becklake	D Center	M Denton	M Gappa	E Hnizdo	B Klug	D Mannino	I Orme
M Beers	G Chalmers	S Desai	J Garcia-Aymerich	J Hogg	P Knekt	S Manzoor Kadri	P Ormerod
D Befus	R Chambers	G Devereux	L Garcia-Marcos	S Holgate	D Knight	E Marchand	R Orriols
E Bel	D Chan	C Dezateux		F Holguin	M Knowles	C Marcus	L Osman

T Out	H Pinnock	G Roberts	G Sasso	S Smith	A Tattersfield	J van der Zee	J West
S O'Sullivan	T Pitt	R Roberts	J Sastre	N Snell	P Tattevin	O Van Schayck	H Whitford
P Palange	E Pizzichini	R Robertson	R Savani	G Snider	R Tauman	B Vargaftig	C Whitney
L Palmer	T Platts-Mills	D Robinson	I Sayers	P Solin	C Taylor	A Venn	M Whyte
N Papadopoulos	M Polkey	P Robinson	B Schock	B Sorgdrager	R Taylor	S Verbanck	A Wijga
A Papi	R Polosa	W Roche	A Schols	J Soriano	W Teague	E Verin	P Wijkstra
S Papiris	B Ponsioen	R Rodriguez-Roisin	M Sears	M South	J Tekavec-Trkanjec	G Verleden	I Wilcox
G Pappas	D Postma	C Rogers	A Seaton	K Southern	T Tetley	J Vestbo	J Wildhaber
D Parikh	A Pozniak	D Rogers	M Seckl	D Spencer	D Thickett	P Vestergaard	T Wilkinson
M Partridge	A Prasad	R J Rona	T Seemungal	P Spinhoven	W Thomas	M Vitacca	A Williams
M Pasteur	J Presneill	R Ronchetti	N Seersholm	S Spiro	A Thomson	E Wagena	J Wilson
N Paterson	D Price	M Rosenfeld	M Selman	P Sporn	N Thomson	J Wagener	M Wilson
J Paton	R Primhak	R Ross-Russell	P Sestini	M Spruit	B Thoonen	P Wagner	N Wilson
I Pavord	D Proud	L Rubin	S Sethi	K Stavem	W Timens	C Wainwright	R Wilson
D Payne	J Quackenbass	I Rubinstein	C Sewry	J Steele	E Tjoenij	R Walinder	S Wilson
A Peacock	K Rabe	R Rudd	P Shah	R Stein	B Toelle	W Wallace	W Windisch
M Peake	W Randerath	M Ruddy	T Shaw	C Stenton	K Toren	C Wallis	R Winter
N Pearce	S Ranganathan	M Rudolf	M Sheaff	P Sterk	A Torres	M Walshaw	G Wong
M Pearson	T Ray	R Ruffin	M Shields	S Stick	J Townend	H Walters	A Woodcock
D Peckham	H Reddel	J Rupp	J Shute	R Stockley	T Troosters	A Wanner	M Woodhead
D Peden	G Redding	G Russell	N Stafakas	J Stocks	J Tschopp	C Warburton	P Woodruff
D Penque	R Reddy	C F Ryan	R Siebers	J Stolk	D Tschumperlin	C Ward	D Worlitzsch
J Pepke-Zaba	J Rees	R Rylander	N Sigurs	J K Stoller	A Tscopoulos	P Wark	E Wouters
J Pepperell	J Reid	I Sabroe	M Silverman	J Stradling	K Tsushima	A Watt	A Wright
T Perez	J Repine	M Saetta	R Silverman	K Strohl	G Turino	K Webb	J Wright
A Peters	L Restrict	A Sala	G Silvestri	S Suissa	P Turkington	J Weber	R Wright
S Phillips	F Ricciardolo	S Salmeron	H-U Simon	J Sunyer	S Ulrich	S Weiland	D Yates
G Piacentini	M Richards	J Samet	A Simonds	B Suratt	C Ulrik	A Weinstein	W Yu
P Pianosi	H Ris	A Sampson	D Sin	E Sutherland	B Undem	S Weiss	J Zhu
C Picado	P Rivera	A Sandford	S Singh	C Svanes	M Upton	P Weller	R Zuwallack
J Piccirillo	R Robbins	R Sandhaus	P Sly	A Szczeklik	P van Asperen	A Wells	
A Pichon	C Roberts	T Sandström	H Smit	D Tashkin	T van der Werf	S Wenzel	