

Annual report

We're off: Annual report October 2001 to September 2002

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This has been yet another successful year for *Thorax*. The number of submissions to the journal has remained high, and the number of original papers is still rising (table 1). The geographical distribution of submissions reflects the international flavour of the journal (table 2) and, relative to previous

years,^{1,2} our acceptance rate has been even lower this year (table 3). Median time to first decisions is now at an all time low, reflecting our policy of trying to give a rapid decision and also only publishing the best papers in the journal (table 4). The journal impact factor has risen further to 4.09 and we are still third

amongst the respiratory journals, just behind the two American Thoracic Society publications.³ We have continued to publish strong review series,⁴⁻⁷ management guidelines,⁸⁻¹⁰ and the Year in Review.¹¹

This is our final year as editors of *Thorax*, and we therefore take this opportunity to express our gratitude—not only for this year but also for the whole of our term of office—to the Associate Editors for their hard work and support, and the Advisory Board for providing expertise on which to draw. Our Technical Editor, Liz Stockman, has tirelessly edited hundreds of papers ensuring the final quality of the published work has been excellent. We thank the Editorial Assistants who have been running the journal for the last year, Hilary, Marie and Laura. Hilary in particular has done a superb job in keeping the journal on track over

Table 1 Impact factor and articles submitted by category

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Impact factor	1.96	2.31	2.86	3.44	3.98	4.09	
Original research							
Full papers	415	411	398	453	505	573	592
Short papers	51	40	31	36	34	36	44
Rapid communications	5	5	7	3	6	9	6
Case reports	247	212	211	149	165	186	146
Editorials/reviews	38	53	81	57	56	55	33
Review series	31	26	13	19	14	15	40
Supplement articles	41	29	17	16	46	5	16
Case report commentaries	11	7	7	0	0	0	0
Letters	50	55	72	9	96	95	70
Total	889	838	837	812	922	974	947

Table 2 Geographical distribution of submissions

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
UK	320	303	265	326	348	323	325
Western Europe	264	236	242	230	268	345	298
Spain	42	45	44	37	38	46	50
The Netherlands	44	49	41	40	51	50	49
Italy	48	19	38	40	36	65	55
France	28	24	27	26	34	33	20
Turkey	14	22	20	17	27	36	27
Israel	17	15	10	13	8	16	12
Eire	8	7	5	2	5	2	12
Switzerland	13	9	5	5	9	18	9
Germany	26	23	20	29	31	37	43
Belgium	12	11	10	10	5	14	8
Greece	7	6	15	6	12	13	11
Austria	5	5	3	4	10	7	2
Portugal	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
Andorra	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
USA and Canada	71	84	76	81	87	68	74
Japan	53	64	46	54	56	69	74
Australasia	31	60	48	38	60	57	45
Scandinavia	32	39	36	38	41	49	41
Asia	26	26	35	30	39	26	41
Eastern Europe	10	3	6	4	9	16	2
South America	10	3	3	1	5	7	6
Africa	4	4	3	3	4	5	1
Middle East	5	9	5	7	5	8	9

Table 3 Decision of papers submitted 2001/2002 as at 30 September 2002

	Case reports	Papers	Short papers
Total	146	592	44
Rejected	130 (89%)	396 (66%)	40 (90%)
Accepted	5 (3%)	47 (7%)	1 (2%)
Pending	11 (7%)	149 (25%)	3 (6%)

Table 4 Median time to first decision (days)

	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/2000	2000/1	2001/2
Full papers	44.5	56	48.5	56	76	15
Short papers	38	24	11.5	28	33	7

the past seven years, through thick and thin. We thank our reviewers who again have done an excellent job and whose names are listed on page 1090. Finally, we would like to thank the scientific respiratory community who sent us their work over the last seven years. Many of you will not have agreed with some of our decisions which, with so many good papers to choose from, have ultimately at times appeared rather arbitrary. By the time this article is published the incoming editorial team (Wisla, Seb and

David) will be in full control of the journal and we wish them all the best. We are sure that the journal will continue to do well in their hands.

Our term as Editors has been interesting, exciting and frustrating, but never dull. If we had had full heads of hair when we started, we would surely have lost it all by now. Fortunately, we had nothing to lose. The success of the journal has sadly not been mirrored by the progress of Nottingham Forest Football Club, although, hopefully, now

that we have more time to give them vocal support, things will turn around. They probably won't!

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Authors' affiliations

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