

# EDITORIAL

*Professor Robert Carachi*  
*Editor-in-Chief*



I would like to wish all our readers a very happy new year. The New Year is time to bring in changes and the SMJ is no exception. The SMJ is going from strength to strength. The journal has enjoyed media focus with thanks to articles on Cancer Waiting Times.

## **Online Publication**

As our submission rates increase, so does the amount of articles accepted for publication. This has meant a sometimes lengthy wait between acceptance and publication. To improve this waiting time, the Journal is venturing into early online publication of all original manuscripts. As of February this year, all original manuscripts accepted for publication will be available online prior to printed publication. Our Sponsoring Societies will also benefit from early online publication. All abstracts will be published within one month of the Society meetings on the SMJ website. In addition, abstracts will continue to be published in the printed journal within six months of the meeting.

## **SMJ Covers**

This year we will be trialling a change in the front cover. Each issue cover will include a picture depicting the flavour of each particular issue.

## **Supplements**

Our new image includes the introduction of two supplements, one on the successful triennial meeting held by the Royal Colleges and the other on Promoting Professionalism and Excellence in Scottish Medicine.

## **SMJ Staff**

Dr David Hamilton has been with the SMJ for a number of years as our Historical Sub-Editor and has contributed greatly to the Journal, I was sad to accept his resignation in late 2008. I would like to personally thank David for all the support and input he has put into the Journal during my time as Editor. Mr James Beaton of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow has taken over as Historical Sub-Editor. I would also like to welcome Dr David Noble, who has recently joined the SMJ Editorial Committee.