

EDITORIAL



Dr Douglas Briggs

New Chairman of the Board

Dr Douglas Briggs, who has been Chairman of the Board of the *Scottish Medical Journal* on two occasions over the past 8 years, and before that was also Secretary/Treasurer for 10 years, demitted office at the Annual Board Meeting on 6th March 2007, held in the Lister Room of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. As a retired nephrologist he has steered the *Scottish Medical Journal* through turbulent times and through his astute chairmanship and networking has left the journal in a very healthy state. During his time as Chairman, Roche sponsorship, which paid for most of the journal costs, was withdrawn without notice in June 2001. The journal survived by using its reserves until the offer of sponsorship from the College which occurred in January 2003. Professor Ross Lorimer as President of the College was instrumental in this. The Journal at present under Douglas' leadership has a robust sponsorship from the Royal College in Glasgow, the main sponsor, as well as 9 Scottish specialist societies. The journal celebrated its 50 years in 2006 and this was possible through the Chairman's enthusiasm and efforts. The journal now contains scientific and educational articles. It has a great Editorial Team which was hand picked by Douglas. The circulation has grown from 3000 to 10500 and the impact factor from 0.2 to 0.53 (2005). We wish him all the best in his retirement. The editorial team wishes Professor Roger Sturrock all the best as the new Chairman of the Board of the *Scottish Medical Journal*.

Content of the Journal

The Journal has now expanded to 60 pages and each issue has 10 original articles, an education section, a historical section, book reviews and reports from one or two of the Societies which sponsor the Journal. Case reports (8-10) are listed but can be reviewed as full text and illustrations on the SMJ website (www.smj.org.uk). The Editorial Committee has decided to meet once a year to discuss changes in content of the Journal. A new section in the current issue will hopefully allow more undergraduate students to contribute to the Journal by submitting papers as a result of an intercalated degree or an audit that they

may have carried out during a Special Study Module. These, of course, will have to be reviewed and to be of a high standard to be accepted.

Rates of acceptance

A total of 691 manuscripts have been received since May 2004. This year 227 papers were submitted for consideration - 36.5% were accepted (1.3.06 - 28.2.07). 83 articles have been accepted for publication. 112 were rejected. 35 resubmitted but not yet accepted.

Several books have also been received and I am grateful for those who reviewed these so quickly. Their reports will be in future Journal issues. We have asked publishers to donate the book to the reviewer. Any extra books are usually handed in to the College library.

Scottish Specialist Societies

Ten Societies publish their abstracts in the Journal, nine of these Societies are sponsors of the Journal. Two further Societies, the Dermatology and Endocrine Societies have expressed an interest in sponsorship of the Journal.

Golden Jubilee

The *Scottish Medical Journal* had its 50th anniversary in 2006. A special issue of 64 pages was printed by the College and was issued on 9th March 2006.

Impact Factor for 2005

The most recent figures for the *Scottish Medical Journal* for 2005 indicates that the total number of original articles published was 51, these were cited on 405 occasions and the impact factor is up this year to 0.531 (2004 the impact factor was 0.365, 2003 was 0.315 and 2002 was 0.164). I would like to thank the Editorial Committee for the great effort in achieving this. I do hope we will continue this trend over the next few years to achieve a respectable impact factor.

Editorial Team

My secretary, Kay Byrne, is assisted now by Jennifer Layden who is manuscript co-ordinator. They have compiled a large database of all manuscripts and peer reviewers which will speed up the process and make it more efficient. The Journal now has 116 specialist reviewers to whom we are very grateful.

Assistant Editor

Due to the increased workload an Assistant Editor, Jill Murie has joined us. I am delighted to welcome her on to the Editorial Team. Her role as Assistant Editor will be to offer support and introduce new ideas in the *Scottish Medical Journal* as well as help me with the increasing workload of manuscripts that are daily coming for peer reviewing. She has taken a lead role in the new image of the Case Report section as well as providing a punch line message for each case that appears on the website.

Sub Editors

Four new Sub-Editors have been commissioned by the Board.

History

David Hamilton is Sub-Editor for the History Section. One of the strengths of the *Scottish Medical Journal* is its history which is important for us to document and for readers to enjoy reading about the illustrious figures of the past who have fashioned our future. He is now responsible for the historical articles that come to the Journal.

Education

Two other Sub-Editors whom we have co-opted are Sub-Editors for the Educational Section of the Journal. Graham Sunderland is the Sub-Editor for the Surgical Section of the Journal and David Bilsland is the Sub-Editor for the Medical Section of the Journal. This Section in the new *Scottish Medical Journal* will be the responsibility of this team to commission educational articles and ensure that they are of a high standard for our readers. The College will also be announcing its forthcoming events and meetings in this Section. I am pleased to report that D. Colin Geddes, Consultant Nephrologist at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, has agreed to join the Sub-Editors Team.

Production Team

We also have a new Production Team who are involved in the layout of the Journal illustrating it and delivering the final product to the reader. The Production Team includes James Beaton, Staff Editor, and Anne Hanlon-Bucher, Graphic Design. We have regular meetings to discuss topics and trends in the journal.

Collaboration of the Scottish Medical Journal with the College

The *Scottish Medical Journal* has entered into a new era of collaboration with the College and it is now in a stronger position than ever to become the main Journal for Scotland and indeed for all the Members and Fellows of the College. For the first time, the circulation has been increased to 10,500 copies which will be distributed to all Members and Fellows worldwide and also to the main educational institutions and caring institutions in Scotland. The Medical Schools are also included in this circulation to try and encourage medical students to read the Journal and contribute to it.

Editorial Committee

The SMJ Editorial Committee Annual Meeting took place on 16th January 2007 and was found to be very useful to all committee members concerned.

Professor Robert Carachi
Editor