

## New policies act on the *Journal's* progress. Report 2005

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*The Journal of Headache and Pain* has reached its 6th year of life. As usual, the yearly report of the Editor-in-Chief summarises its life during the last twelve months. I herein report to our readers realisations concerning organisational plans, new electronic facilities, the progressive spread of the readership interest and the evident boosting of international participation to manuscript submission. These changes reflect how new policies act on the *Journal's* progress.

a. *Organisational plans.* The Editorial Board has been enlarged. We have had new co-optations as Associate Editors: Rami Burstein, Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital; Michael Björn Russell, Professor of Neurology at University of Oslo; and Paola Sarchielli, University of Perugia, who has always been hard-working, first as an invisible Assistant Editor and then as Deputy Editor of the *Journal*. They work side by side in the *Journal* panel with other renowned scientists who have been Associate Editors since the *Journal's* foundation: Professor Michael Moskowitz, Professor Pramod Saxena and Professor Vincenzo Guidetti. It is important to me, in this instance, to thank both the old and new Associate Editors

for the important support they give to the *Journal*. Also, two new sections have been created, one dedicated to the History of Medicine interpreted according to the classic culture of Giorgio Zanchin, Professor of Neurology and History of Medicine at the University of Padua, and the other dedicated to Public Health and assigned to Matilde Leonardi, an internationally recognised expert of disability problems, from the National Neurological Institute Carlo Besta of Milan. Special thanks also go to them for their participation in this innovative project. These all represent the new editorial team, the Board of Directors. Teamwork and strong liaison for each project, constitutes, in my opinion, the cornerstone for balanced and stable growth of the *Journal*. The Advisory Board too, was reshaped by parameterizing active participation to the scientific life of the *Journal*, and new members of acknowledged scientific value were accepted to be part of our team. I am personally grateful to all the new members of the Advisory Board who choose to share this further phase of growth with us and, at the same time, I thank all those who are no longer Advisory Board members for their contributions to the editorial life of the *Journal*.

b. *Editorial schedule.* In 2004 we increased the number of regular issues from 3 to 4 and the 2005 schedule will bring it up to 6 regular issues. The number of supplements too, 6 in five years, shows a continuous interest and trust in the *Journal* from the headache and pain scientific world. Furthermore, I observe with great pleasure that the average contributions published in the last 12 months registered an increase of internationality: from 45.17% in volume 4 to 57.78% in volume 5; also, the total number of pages and contributions published in the 2004 volume increased, from 242 to 334 and from 31 to 45, respectively, in comparison with the previous 2003 volume.

c. *Electronic facilities.* The *Journal*, already online at the moment of its foundation at <http://www.springeronline.com/journal/10194/>, gained surplus value in terms of virtual availability, in order to facilitate both its use and management for readership, contributing authors and reviewers. Innovations: (i) since July 2004 the electronic gate for the submission/reviewing papers throughout the ScholarOne system has been active at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jhp>; (ii) from December 2004 the Open Choice service has been active at [www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com). This service was initiated due to the necessity of a more free exchange of scientific information. The absence of technical barriers for the download of the most interesting papers leads some authors to render the full-text version of their papers available to increase both their cir-

ulation and citation. (iii) From January 2005 the Online First service will be active at [www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com); this service concerns articles to be published in the next issue, which will be available online months in advance. Quotation using the DOI code of the pre-published articles allows easy and incontestable identification in terms of copyright. The time-saving online procedure and the consequent faster reviewing process reduced the average time to 8 weeks for the final answer to the author after the first submission. This resource increased submissions, which were successfully accompanied by a strong and expected Europeanisation in the contributions.

All these services allow faster management and a larger quotation index of the published papers, features which are definitely not of secondary importance to a journal that is still young.

The challenge for *The Journal of Headache and Pain* is to push its own limits, to improve in terms of both quality and quantity of content, to enlarge, in a multidisciplinary sense, the readership background and to respect the independence mandate of the published contents. Our activity of fine "handicraft", a typical Italian-made resource, represents the basis of our daily work. In the editorial future of the *Journal* there are new projects that will obviously generate new problems, but will also stimulate the research of new solutions.

*Paolo Martelletti*  
*Editor-in-Chief*