

## Editorial

### February 2001 editorial

With this issue we begin our fourth year of publication. This year we shall expand from four to six issues to cope with the volume of publishable material that we receive. One of our original aims was to keep the lag time between acceptance and publication to less than six months; we have not been able to achieve that because of the number of papers accepted for publication. This is a nice problem for us to deal with because it suggests that researchers increasingly see *Public Health Nutrition* as a primary place to publish their research.

This year we have also expanded our list of Associate Editors and we take this opportunity to welcome these new editors on board — in particular we are excited to welcome our new editors from Japan and China. The wide representation of countries and centres of excellence on our Editorial Board reflects the growing strength of Public Health Nutrition as a professional discipline. We believe that the journal now provides a unique forum for the dissemination of work in Public Health Nutrition.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have reviewed papers for us over the last three years. Without your support the journal would not be in the state that it is today.

A very significant development has been the revision of our approach to copyright. Our contributing authors maintain copyright of their materials and sign only a Licence to Publish. This gives the author greater control over their own material. We have also introduced the possibility of electronic submission to make it easier and quicker for authors to submit papers.

While it is appropriate to reflect on the progress we have made in the last three years, it is vital that we look to the challenges ahead of us. The real test is coming: to show that the journal has an impact on improving nutrition-related health around the world. Our ambitions are large, but so are the issues facing us. We want to ensure an evidence-based approach to the solution of real problems that impact the public health of countries around the world. We want the journal to be the forum for the dissemination of knowledge and new approaches relevant to Public Health Nutrition, as well as being a vehicle for sharing experience about what works and does not work in promoting health. We want publications with impact that help focus and direct resources to improve the health of people in our own countries and throughout the world. A dynamic balance is needed between solving the problems that affect the citizens of our own countries, without incurring harm for those living in other countries. We encourage publications that develop a global perspective to deal with global issues, whilst not ignoring problems on our own doorsteps. *Public Health Nutrition* should provide a forum for the dissemination of information that can be used to make a difference. Our goal is to enhance the impact of your papers by increasing the readership and appeal of the journal to those involved in public health, and by getting your valuable findings to our readership as rapidly as possible.

Barrie Margetts

Lenore Arab