

Editorial

1999 has been a busy year for the *Journal*. We received 613 papers and published 254. We have noticed that there has been a slight reduction in the number of original articles submitted, perhaps in the UK this is a reflection of the Calman registrar training scheme. We published two supplements this year, the Abstracts from the 10th British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology which was held in Cambridge in July and The Midland Adult Cochlear Implant Programme.

The 1998/99 *JLO* Visiting Professor was Professor W P Coman from Brisbane, Australia who delivered lectures at the Royal Society of Medicine, Oxford, Nottingham, Bristol and Gray's Inn Road. The 1999 *JLO* Travelling Fellowship was awarded to Mr N B Kumar who visited Professor Fisch in Zurich and Professor van den Broek in Nijmegen. We look forward to publishing his report in the coming months.

We were pleased to welcome Professor Nicholas Stafford and Mr Robin Youngs as Assistant Editors and Dr Linda Hunt as a Statistical Adviser. We wish to thank Anthony Hughes for his hard work and services as an Adviser in Statistics which draws to an end this month and Mr Michael Rothera for his long service as an Assistant Editor which ended during the year.

The Millennium will mark a new chapter in the history of the *Journal*. Headley Brothers have been our publishers since 1933. Our predecessors have maintained the production of the *Journal* in their own offices but with an eye to the future the Directors have decided to appoint the Royal Society of Medicine Press as publishers but are delighted that Headley Brothers will continue to typeset, print and distribute the *Journal*. Principally the move to the Royal Society of Medicine will provide us with a permanent base in London and the association with an active medical publishing house. We shall look forward to working with them as well as with Roger Pitt, Richard Rice, Thelma Aspland and Sheila Hubbard at Headley Brothers.

Co-existent with these changes we will be modifying the Instructions to Authors and tightening up our acceptance criteria in order to try and further increase the quality of the material that we publish. These changes will be highlighted in the January editorial.

The following have kindly acted as referees during 1999. We are grateful to them for the time they have given to the *Journal*.

Gillian Adams
Professor BA Bell
D Bowdler
G Brookes
J Carruth
Elfy Chevetton
R Coles
S Cudlip
C East
A Gallimore
R Gray
I Hutchinson
Susanna Leighton
J MacGlashan
G O'Donoghue
A Parker
G Robbins
S Saeed
Anita Simonds
N Solomons
N Taylor
Professor W Wei
P Wilkins

D Albert
J Bennett
M Bridger
Professor G Browning
Professor R Cartwright
R Clarke
G Critchley
Rosalyn Davies
P Ellis
M Gleeson
A Hackshaw
N Karangia
Catherine Ludman
K McKenzie
B O'Reilly
J Patten
J Robinson
L Savy
M Smith
D Soutar
N Tolley
S Whitaker
Professor A Wright

G Bates
L Berger
Juliet Britton
P Bull
A Cheesman
A Clifton
C Croft
A Drake-Lee
R Felix
J Graham
W Hellier
J Leigh
D Macmillan
R Mills
A Pahor
A Ramsey
J Rowe-Jones
Glenis Scadding
Susan Snashall
D Stephens
J Topham
M Whiteley
M Yung

As always we are much indebted to Gillian Goldfarb, our production editor, and to Jennifer Almond, our sub-editor, for the vast amount of work which they undertake to ensure that the *Journal* maintains its high standard. Special thanks also go to June Morrison who is preparing our *JLO* 10-year index which will appear in the early part of 2000.

Lastly we wish to thank all our contributors and readers for their continued support of the *Journal*. May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

NEIL WEIR and GUY KENYON
Editors