

# A happy and successful 2008 to our readers, authors and referees

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A Chinese proverb says “*Be not afraid of growing slowly, be afraid only of standing still*”. *The Swiss Medical Weekly* grew in many ways in 2007, and with the help of you all will continue to grow in 2008. Its impact factor increased in comparison to 2006 and more high quality manuscripts have been coming in. We were able to focus more on subjects of interest falling within the scope of our journal, dedicated as it is to clinical science and basic science relevant to clinical medicine. We were able to maintain our high standards of quality peer review thanks to our large team of national and international experts (listed on page 25 of this issue), who provided us with invaluable advice on manuscripts submitted and selected for review after in-house scrutiny. We express our warmest gratitude to them for their commitment and shall continue to count on their collaboration in the coming year. We also thank our statistical advisor Jim Young, whose sharp critical eye has done so much to improve many manuscripts. Last year the editorial board also grew with the addition of Paul Erne, in partial replacement of our senior editor Werner Straub, who has retired from the journal’s day-to-day business. As a main architect of the new *Swiss Medical Weekly* Professor Straub will, however, continue to advise on tough decisions and help to maintain the journal on its course of change and renewal.

In 2007 we adapted our instructions to authors and now require clinical studies started after October 1, 2007 to be entered in one of the public international clinical trials registry platforms

[1]. For details see the advice to authors at [www.smw.ch](http://www.smw.ch). We have received several manuscripts based only on telephone inquiries and questionnaires, mainly devoted to quality control, often with low response rates and therefore unacceptable for publication. Desirous of assisting potential authors in finding a more suitable journal for their work, we therefore included a rule that we would no longer consider such studies for publication in the future. However, having learned that for many scientific questions, especially in the field of epidemiology, a scientific approach of this kind is crucial, we have decided to withdraw this rule from our instructions to authors and will continue to consider such papers.

In 2008 we shall continue to work for the further advancement of *SMW*, among other things by stepping up our efforts to solicit reviews on subjects of topical interest from active members of the research community. And as usual, we shall of course be pleased to receive spontaneous proposals for interesting review articles, and are keen to obtain the greatest number possible of stimulating original papers from you. In 2008 we, as editorial board, shall be happy to continue serving you as authors and readers of our open access journal devoted to all aspects of clinical medicine. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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*Andreas Schaffner*  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
*Swiss Medical Weekly*

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## Reference

- 1 Schaffner A. New guidelines for authors. *Swiss Med Wkly* 2007;137:517.

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Established in 1871  
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[http://www.smw.ch/set\\_authors.html](http://www.smw.ch/set_authors.html)

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