

Old year out, New Year in – Happy New Year from all of us to our authors, referees and readers

“*New Year is the key that unlocks the year*”. This well-known Japanese proverb reflects the idea that many among us, after due introspection and with gratitude to those around us, make firm resolutions for the upcoming 12 months.

Let me begin by expressing the indebtedness of the *Swiss Medical Weekly* Editorial Board to all who have contributed to a successful 5th year as an all-English language journal. Once again our thanks go to the many expert referees (see list on p. 33) from Switzerland and abroad. Without their work – more often than not delivered in time – we could not maintain a high-standard peer review process. Our own professional statistical referees have once again added value to the manuscripts and helped authors, readers and editors alike with their expertise. The quality of the journal is reflected in the continuous rise of our impact factor and thus the increased attractivity of our pages to authors from countries all over the world. In this respect also we are well on track as a leading continental journal covering the entire field of clinical sciences. We aim to continue boosting our journal's impact in the coming year, in order to widen its appeal in particular with authors in the scientific communities of neighbouring countries. Finally, the Editorial Board thanks the publishers, including the FMH (Swiss Medical Society), for enabling us to produce an independent scientific journal in a high-standard professional environment.

We have not achieved all the goals set out at the beginning of last year. The *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors* (ICMJE) requires that papers presenting clinical studies after 1 July 2005 will only be considered for publication in their member journals if entered in a public registry not later than the beginning of patient enrolment. Our hope was to provide authors with the name of an official registry in which to enter their studies (at no cost) here in Switzerland. We are still looking forward to the official establishment of a registry, and authors will be informed as soon as this has taken place.

The beginning of a new year is also often a time for change. Some readers will have noticed that the EMH group of publishers has changed the cover of the *SMW*. The change, which was unanimously welcomed by the Editorial Board, was designed not only to improve the look of our journal but to bring its appearance more into line with that of the two companion journals, the *SAEZ*, the official organ of the FMH, and the *Forum*, the Swiss journal for continuous education.

The Editorial Board of the *Swiss Medical Weekly* wishes all contributors and readers a happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

For the Editorial Board
Andreas Schaffner, MD

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