

Swiss Medical Weekly on the eve of 2003

After two years of experience as an English-language journal and combining our longstanding tradition as a medical journal with all the modern electronic networking, it's time to thank all contributors for their support.

In the first place we would like to express our gratitude to our referees, many of them from abroad. They made it possible to provide authors and readers with a high standard of peer reviewing, a process vital to our Journal. Making contact with new experts all over the world (see page 24) allowed us to pick experts in the many fields covered by manuscripts comprising clinical medicine, basic research, neurosciences and humanities.

To our thanks to the contributors of manuscripts and comments we would like to add our hope that our services to their community fulfilled their needs. We were able to maintain our standards of publishing a manuscript within 4-6 weeks after submission of the final revised version of their work. We apologize for some delays that occurred in the reviewing process caused by a minority of referees not keeping the proposed time schedule.

Access to full text manuscripts through Internet at no cost for anyone was possible on the same day the Journal is published. Cooperation with

Medline was superb, allowing rapid access for readers, referees and authors to scientific material through this database essential to the scientific community.

The submission of manuscripts permitted us to maintain and increase our standards. We elected to reject 48.2% of manuscripts last year compared to 35.1% in 2001. While we would like to see the individual volumes of the Journal being increased by one or two articles we will not allow this to happen at the price of a reduced scientific quality or pertinence. The fraction of papers from abroad increased from 27% to 48% in 2002, yet we would like to see a further increase of the number of foreign submissions. To support this opening and underline our editorial policy in this regard we have launched an European Young Investigator's Award honoring the author of the best submitted manuscript (see last page) with a prize of 30'000 Euro. We are impatient to see this opening grow over the next years.

With all our gratitude we send you our best wishes for the New Year

*For the Editorial Board
Andreas Schaffner, MD*

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What Swiss Medical Weekly has to offer:

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