



PII: S0959-8049(98)00394-3

Message from the Editors

THE BEGINNING of a new year is often a time for reflection on the accomplishments and disappointments of the past year, resulting in those New Years' Resolutions just waiting to be broken! This year there is perhaps even greater expectation and excitement as we approach the end of the second millennium—will the 'Euro' lead Europe into economic success or disaster? Will the 'Millennium Computer Bug' take civilisation into another Dark Age? Will there be enough champagne to go around?

At the *European Journal of Cancer* we have already taken steps to ensure the journal will be ready for the year 2000. In 1998, our Impact Factor increased to 2.41 (its highest in recent times) and we climbed the international ranks of oncology journal from 30th to 24th. The launch of *EJC Online* (free access to all papers at <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejconline>) has won us a new and wider international readership that is ever increasing, with over 1000 users registered in the first 6 months. As a result, our submissions have increased to a point where our current rejection rate has had to be increased to over 60%. All in all, 1998 was a good year for the *European Journal of Cancer*.

And what of the future? There is great anticipation that the *European Journal of Cancer* will go from strength to strength. Acknowledging the importance of the end of the 20th century, we have commissioned a series of Millennium Reviews, in which some of the most important oncologists of our time will provide their views on the future in oncology. In this issue, the first Millennium Review of the series is by Karol Sikora. He describes WHO predictions of global cancer incidence and mortality in the 21st century, and optimistically suggests prevention measures that could eliminate two-thirds of all new cancer cases—we can only hope these

measures will succeed, although such predictions rarely go uncontested. During 1999, there will be a Millennium Review in each monthly issue of the *European Journal of Cancer*, covering a broad range of subjects from Angiogenesis (Judah Folkman) to Hormonal Therapy (Craig Jordan), from p53 (David Lane) to Tobacco (Paul Kleihues), and from Gene Therapy (David Curiel) to Cell Cycle Control (Robert Weinberg). The last issue of 1999 will be a Special Millennium Issue, in which all these and other Millennium Reviews will be published together, in what we hope will be a fascinating and sometimes visionary account of what oncology promises for the 21st century. Will most cancers be cured? Or are we as far from that and a true understanding of these complex diseases as the man who invented the wheel was from landing on the moon? Let us hope not.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the *European Journal of Cancer*, particularly our besieged referees without whose help we could not maintain the quality of our journal. We look forward to your continued support. We also thank all the staff at the *European Journal of Cancer* for their hard work, continued high standards and perseverance, even when their patience is sorely and so often tested!

Best wishes for the New Year to all our readers.

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Editor in Chief

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