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Editorial

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The staff of the *European Journal of Cancer* welcome our readership to the turn of the Century and Millennium, and to another year of interesting scientific interaction and collaboration between authors, reviewers, editors and subscribers. We believe that this year is a particularly fitting time for the journal, now in its 36th year, to undergo a number of changes to ensure its continued success and progression within the field of oncology.

No doubt you will have already noticed some changes to the front cover of the journal. The rectangular design by Sir Michael Peckham, used since 1990, has been modified to give a more modern appearance, although we have maintained the link with this design by retaining its distinctive colours. Similarly, the format and typeface has been upgraded to give a more modern appearance to our articles and improve legibility.

You may also notice that this and future issues are slimmer than in the past, as we will now publish 18 issues annually instead of the former 14. The increased number of issues will enable us to further reduce our publication time and provide our readership with important papers more promptly. In addition, it will allow us to publish more of our highly regarded Special Issues on topical issues or important areas of research within oncology. In this coming year, we intend to publish Special Issues on topics as diverse as: tumour prevention and genetics; invasion and metastasis; and childhood cancer survival.

Submissions to the journal continue to increase, and consequently we have been able to increase our rejection rate and improve the quality of the journal. This

improved quality is reflected in our continually increasing Impact Factor, which has grown from 2.017 in 1996 to 2.407 in 1997 and 2.743 in 1998. We are confident that the articles published in the *EJC* in 1999 will also be well cited and contribute positively to our Impact Factor.

The electronic version of the journal, *EJC Online* (<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ejconline>), has proved to be very popular and registrations to the site have increased steadily during 1999. As of January 2000, in order to continue accessing *EJC Online*, individuals will need to join the '*EJC Club*' for a minimal fee, which as well as offering access to the online journal up to 4 weeks prior to the print edition, also offers many other benefits. Visit the website for this service at the address given above for more details.

We would like to extend a welcome to the European Society of Mastology, EUSOMA, which has officially affiliated to the *European Journal of Cancer* from January 2000. A new Editor for breast cancer, Professor Roger Blamey has been appointed from January 2000. Further changes to the structure of the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Cancer* will be announced later this year, which will fortify our coverage of subject areas and inject fresh ideas and opinions.

I hope that our readers and contributors will agree that these changes represent a positive transformation for the *European Journal of Cancer*, and I welcome any feedback you may have. Best wishes for the Year 2000!

Hans-Jörg Senn
Editor-in-Chief