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Editorial

2001 saw some significant changes to the *European Journal of Cancer*. The new cover signalled a change in several editors, editorial staff and consultants, and thankfully the various handovers were achieved smoothly to provide continuity of publishing. Several new themes have been introduced, including the Current Perspectives to highlight important potential changes to practice, interviews with leading European oncologists and the Eurofile in the News Section. We are aware of the interest that our readership have in the 'politics' of European medicine, but understanding the mechanisms by which Brussels operates is confusing, difficult and sometimes virtually impossible! The Eurofile is addressing some of these issues to explain the genuine efforts that Brussels is making to support cancer research—and revealing where it has been successful and where it has not. It was good to see tobacco advertising controls introduced in 1998, but then in 2000 these were ruled invalid by the EU's own Court of Justice! There is much explaining to be done. However, it was heartening to learn that the commission is proposing to put cancer amongst its priorities in the next 4-year support programme which has a budget of €4 billion a year.

There are many excellent journals that create the oncology literature but most are focused on specific disciplines and diseases or are representative of societies or national interests. The *European Journal of Cancer* seeks to be truly multidisciplinary and truly European.

During the past year, we have been pleased to receive a significant increase in the number of submitted papers, particularly in preclinical science. Elsevier are at the forefront of electronic publishing and there is evidence of continually increasing on-line usage of *EJC* through Science Direct. The number of articles downloaded in early 2001 was 4 times greater than the number downloaded for the same period in 2000. We are naturally keen to obtain feedback from readers of the journal, including demographics, how you prefer to read—print or online—your perceptions of the content and suggestions for future developments. To this end, a questionnaire will be included in this and the next few issues of the Journal and we would encourage you to share your opinions with us. You might even win the monthly prize!

I am not a great believer in New Year's resolutions—like bone marrow reserve, staying power is more rewarding than short lived interventions! I do however greatly enjoy the spirit of the festive season and the offering of New Year's messages of hope and goodwill. I thank all of our editors, consultants, reviewers and the office staff for all their endeavours last year, and wish them—and all our readership—a happy, successful and literary New Year.

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