

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Only a few years after changing over to English, the *International Journal of Legal Medicine* is addressing a new group of subscribers and also undertaking other steps to enhance its scientific image. The International Academy of Legal Medicine, which was founded in 1938, decided unanimously during its XVIth Congress in Strasbourg to adopt our Journal as its official organ. Not only will this extend the Journal's readership to include a highly respected professional group; in addition there will be new contributors of top-quality papers among the members of the Academy. This change will also mean more information is supplied to the entire readership, especially as there will now be a newsletter about 2 pages long at the end of each issue, reporting on recent developments within the Academy, international regulations/guidelines, and international congresses.

The Academy members are also grateful to Springer for allowing them to subscribe to the Journal at a special price included in the membership dues, which means that even young scientists just starting out on their professional lives will be able to afford the Journal. This has already attracted new members into the Academy and will, I am sure, continue to do so. The Academy's statutes can be found in the newsletter in this issue.

During the past few years, the international standing of our Journal has risen sharply. We owe this, first, to the many excellent papers submitted for publication by outstanding groups working in all major fields, but also to Springer's policy of rapid publication. I feel sure this development will continue in the future.

The Editor