

Editorial

Progress Notes

After 9 months, the editorial office of *International Psychogeriatrics* is now comfortably housed in St. Louis. Nancy Raley, the Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief, has the flow of manuscripts well in hand. The time between submission and acceptance is now down to 2 to 4 months, with a total of 9 months from submission to publication. This has been achieved by making the journal a quarterly, by reducing the review time, and by Nancy's diligence. For those of you who have kindly reviewed manuscripts, a special thanks. You are the unsung heroes of *International Psychogeriatrics*.

The quality of our papers is improving, with an acceptance rate of 33%. We receive about 100 papers yearly (compare this with the *Lancet* which is sent 100 weekly!). Obviously, we would like the number of submissions to increase (not to the *Lancet* level!) and hope that these will come from around the world. We are sensitive to our audience, though, and will attempt to balance a pursuit of excellence with an understanding of the inherent limitations imposed upon investigators from economically disadvantaged countries. We now have associate editors located around the world to increase the visibility of the journal, and to encourage would-be authors of papers and reviewers. There are singular gaps in associate editors from South America, Africa, and Asia. Please write to the editorial office with any suggestions.

Throughout the rest of 1996, we will be coming up with our new format for the journal. This will comprise changes in design, font, and layout. The new version will appear in early 1997. Feedback from members of the International Psychogeriatric Association is encouraged. Remember that phone, fax, and e-mail communication is very welcome. As we sit in the black leather chairs in my office viewing the Arch in downtown St. Louis, we try to envisage our readers. They are such a diverse constituency that the task is not easy. Nevertheless, contractual connections, i.e., manuscripts etc., will develop and as this editorial transition is completed, we will get on with the business of discussing geriatric psychiatry as it affects us all. There are approximately six journals similar to ours in content and which, in a sense, are our competitors.

While we value competition, we recognize there has to be a better-than-most, if not a single, gold standard. We want our talented readers to contact us because we need feedback. So, genuinely, please spend some time being thoughtful about *International Psychogeriatrics* and about in what ways it might reflect the values, attitudes, and ideas of the association. You have our contact numbers and we look forward to hearing from you.

Robin Eastwood, MD
Editor-in-Chief
St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.