

Editor's report: 2003

Dear Colleagues,

Last year was a year of changes for your journal. Three issues were published by Dr Pavithran: Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr and a supplement. I would like to thank him on behalf of the editorial board and all of us for his whole hearted co-operation in the transition period. He has also improved our financial position, by saving Rs. 6 lakhs collected through advertisements. The rest four issues, May-June to Nov-Dec, were published from Mumbai. We hope to get rid of any delays in printing by June-July 2004. In this job we are being helped by a continuous flow of quality articles from all of you.

I am sure that you must have noticed a change in the appearance of our journal, with better quality paper, color photographs and an attractive cover page designed by Sudler and Hennessey (India). This has been possible only through the generous help from the pharmaceutical industry, with major contributions from GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals and Gracewell-Glenmark Pharma. Thanks to them our financial position has improved, which will be helpful in view of an increase in number of members and the rising printing costs.

The major change in the working of the IJDVL has been the shift in its office from a particular city to the worldwide web so that it is equally accessible to everyone, from authors to reviewer to editors. This is due to our website (www.ijdv.com), which has been supported by a generous financial grant from Procter and Gamble (India) Ltd. It provides full text access to all articles from 2003 onwards and abstracts of the previous 40 years that were compiled by Dr. A. K. Bajaj.

Due to our indexing with some international indexing agencies, the journal's visibility on the net has improved. A simple Google search (Indian pages on <http://www.google.co.in>) on subject or author names is also able to search all the articles in the journal. The website provides additional exposure to the journal as it makes it available in 8 additional languages.

We also have a (www.journalonweb.com/ijdv) separate

website for online submission and tracking of manuscripts. It allows blinded peer reviews and greatly speed up the review process. The average review time for articles submitted by post during 2003 was 7 months, but for articles submitted on the website it was about 8 weeks. Both the websites as well as the daily routines of publishing are being managed by Medknow Publications so that it leaves us more time to pay attention to the scientific content of the journal. I would like to place on record our appreciation for the co-operation by Medknow Publications who have designed and maintained our websites and have helped in the publication, printing and bibliographic indexing of the journal.

However, what is more challenging is improving the quality of articles. During this year, we received 225 articles, of which 83 are under review or revision, 43 have been published, 22 are in press, 14 have been accepted and 63 have been rejected. Yes, we regret that we have had to reject some articles so that only the best are published. We hope that rejection will not dishearten our members but spur them to prepare and submit better articles. We have done our best to ensure that the review process is transparent, blinded and impartial. We must thank our reviewers and members of the editorial board who are responsible for the quality of articles that are published. They have generously spent their valuable time in meticulously going over many articles and suggested improvements.

We would like to congratulate Drs. Somesh Gupta, Sanjeev Handa and Bhushan Kumar who have been chosen for the Bishnupriya Debi Award for Best Article published in 2002 for their article, "A novel scoring system for evaluation of results of autologous transplantation methods in vitiligo".

Last but not the least, I would like to appeal to all the members to continue to support our journal by sending their best articles to the IJDVL.

Uday Khopkar
Editor-IJDVL