
Editorial

Although you would probably expect any editor to say so, I strongly believe that the Journal is an invaluable organ of the World's Poultry Science Association. It provides a vehicle whereby members are kept in touch with the activities of fellow members in almost every corner of the world. It also offers the opportunity to submit review articles on any area of poultry science and, if accepted for publication, be assured that they will be seen by over 7000 readers, an enormous number for a relatively esoteric research area. To maintain the quality of these articles the submitted papers are subject to peer review by anonymous experts, a substantial but nevertheless important task. For it is only by continuing to publish material of the highest quality that the Journal will be sought after as the authoritative voice of research opinion in poultry science, and that scientists of international eminence will continue to seek to publish therein. That the *WPSJ* carries a high reputation is reflected in its so-called impact factor, a quantity devised by assessors and used by librarians, granting bodies and promotion panels, respectively, to rank the relative status of a journal or a piece of research or a scientist. In 1998 the *WPSJ* had a higher impact factor (1.326) than *Poultry Science* (1.260), and that must be indicative of a journal in pretty good shape. However, although historically good journals tend to go from strength to strength, complacency can be dangerous. My judgement is that a journal is only as good as its last issue and that editors have always to be on the look out for high quality copy. I will therefore always give a warm welcome to the submission of reviews of high quality on any issue relating to poultry, particularly from people working in industry (see editorial in December 1999 issue). In addition, given the considerable impact they have had and continue to have on international poultry science, the journal might expect to receive substantially more contributions from North America and the countries in the Pacific Rim, from whence articles have been rather sparse of late.

That the *WPSJ* is in such good heart reflects well on my predecessor, Chris Hann, although I now realise how many others make significant contributions to its success. I'm pleased to take this opportunity to draw them to your attention and to thank them publicly for the great efforts that they make in maintaining the standards, popularity and success of the *WPSJ*: the anonymous and unsung referees who arguably do most to ensure that the quality of each published review is of the requisite standard; the translators of the abstracts who operate to such tight deadlines; and the typesetters, Genesis, who have borne the late delivery of copy from me last year (and even the extremely late payment of one account!) with commendable fortitude. Finally, but certainly not least, I'd like to acknowledge the input of the Journal's Editorial Assistant, Liz Stockman, who is efficient, breathtakingly expert at her job and a real pleasure to work with into the bargain. Arguably the hidden jewel in the *WPSJ*'s crown, Liz managed to move house twice during the production of volume 55 yet never missed a deadline. The Editor and the *WPSJ* is indeed fortunate to be supported by such an array of dedicated talent.

As I write this (2nd May) I am hopeful that the June issue will be on your desks before you set off for the XXIst World Congress in Montreal. Please bring your innovative ideas for the Journal with you and don't be inhibited in stopping me and telling me about them face to face. It's your Journal and you shouldn't hesitate to attempt to influence either its content or format.

Jim McNab