

Editorial

Dear Reader,

As in previous years, we have pleasure in producing a special issue on the occasion of the year's FEBS Meeting, which is offered to all participants, in addition to the regular subscribers. The present Basel Special Issue reports the Datta Lecture in full, plus a number of Minireviews. I want to thank the eighth Datta Lecturer, P. De Camilli, who has followed his predecessors' example and provided us with the complete text in time for publication; and M. Saraste and F. Wieland who solicited and organised a series of excellent Minireviews.

Our journal keeps thriving by all criteria; i.e. we receive more and more manuscripts every year. As FEBS Letters cannot grow in size indefinitely, we are obliged to be increasingly stringent every year; this means that we are sometimes unable to publish some sound and reasonably interesting contributions – for which we express our apologies to the authors involved.

We are pleased to let you know that we have succeeded in keeping the subscription prices for 1995 and 1996 at the level of 1994. You will certainly have noticed the changes in the format of FEBS Letters which were introduced at the beginning of this year. They are a part of our intensive efforts to compress rising production costs, rather than passing them on to the subscribers. As you know, we *do not levy page charges* of any kind; this also is in the spirit of FEBS, a non-profit organisation*.

Our publication time in 1994 (Fig. 1) could be reduced further, as compared to previous years. It is now 7.04 weeks, or 35.2 working days. This speed is due to the dedication and cooperative spirit of all parties involved:

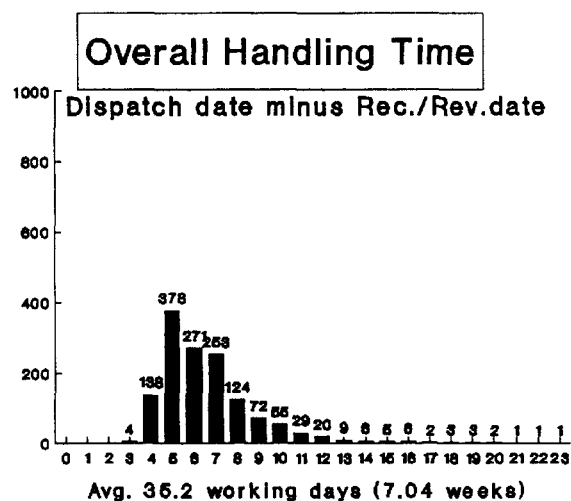


Fig. 1. Overall publication time of all communications published in 1994 (Volumes 337–356): date of despatch from warehouse minus date of receipt of revised manuscript or first editor's date of receipt when no revision was involved. Average publication time: 35.2 working days (7.04 weeks).

the editors, the reviewers (each manuscript, as a rule, is examined by at least two specialists – our rejection rate is higher than that of most journals!), the publishers, the printers, and, last but not least, the authors themselves, most of whom provide us with well-written texts accompanied by a diskette.

But of course, nobody is perfect. Also you, dear reader, can contribute towards making our journal better and better, by providing us with comments and suggestions.

Zürich, July 1995

Giorgio Semenza

*At the end of this issue you will find the updated guidelines for the FEBS Fellowships and the programme of FEBS Advanced Courses for 1996. See also the blue pages which the European Journal of Biochemistry publishes in January and July each year.

Table 1
Geographical Distribution FEBS Letters Vol. 337-356 (1994)

Country	Origin of papers		Journal distribution	
	No.	%	No.*	%
Austria	17	1.2	10	0.6
Belgium	20	1.4	11	0.7
Bulgaria	1	0.1		
Czech Republic	6	0.4		
Denmark	26	1.8	13	0.8
Estonia	1	0.1		
Finland	10	0.7	9	0.6
France	117	8.2	80	5.2
Germany	192	13.4	131	8.4
Greece	4	0.3	7	0.5
Hungary	2	0.1	9	0.6
Israel	31	2.2	11	0.7
Italy	71	4.9	66	4.2
The Netherlands	38	2.6	52	3.4
Norway	2	0.1	7	0.5
Poland	1	0.1	10	0.6
Portugal	2	0.1		
Russia	78	5.4		
Slovak Republic	5	0.3		
Slovenia	1	0.1		
Spain	36	2.5	29	1.9
Sweden	40	2.8	22	1.4
Switzerland	38	2.6	27	1.7
Turkey	1	0.1	5	0.3
UK	143	10.0	112	7.2
Rest of Europe			21	1.4
EUROPE TOTAL	883	61.5	632	40.7
South Africa	1	0.1	7	0.5
Rest of Africa			3	0.2
AFRICA TOTAL	1	0.1	10	0.7
Hong Kong	1	0.1		
India	13	0.9	20	1.3
Japan	250	17.4	286	18.4
P. Rep. China	4	0.3	6	0.4
South Korea	2	0.1	19	1.2
Taiwan	4	0.3	8	0.5
Rest of Asia	3	0.2	13	0.8
ASIA TOTAL	277	19.3	352	22.6
Argentina	6	0.4		
Brazil	2	0.1	12	0.8
Chile	7	0.5	5	0.3
Mexico	2	0.1	7	0.5
Canada	31	2.2	42	2.7
USA	206	14.4	451	29.0
Rest of America			12	0.8
AMERICA TOTAL	254	17.7	529	34.1
Australia	17	1.2	25	1.6
New Zealand	3	0.2	6	0.4
AUSTRALASIA TOTAL	20	1.4	31	2.0
WORLD TOTAL	1435	100%	1553	100%
Free subscriptions			50	

*Countries with less than five subscriptions are listed under 'Rest Countries'.