

Editorials

New advisory board members, new guide for authors, and on-line access

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Since its foundation in 1954, the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists has continued to grow steadily, and the number of Society members now is approaching 8600. In June 2001, the Society was approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan as a legal entity, and it is now recognized as a corporate body. The name of the Society also underwent a slight modification, from the former Japan Society of Anesthesiologists to the current Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists. The *Journal of Anesthesia*, the official journal of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists, is in its 16th year of publication, and 9000 copies are distributed to Society members as well as to non-Society subscribers in Japan and in other parts of the world.

In this issue of the *Journal of Anesthesia*, readers will find some minor but significant changes. These changes include a listing of the new Advisory Board members and a revised version of the Guide for Authors. Instructions for accessing the *Journal of Anesthesia* on-line are also included, beginning with this issue.

The members of the International Advisory Board have long been a great guiding force for our journal. To join them, we recently have invited a considerable number of authorities from different fields of anesthesiology and related biomedical sciences from all over the world to become members of the Advisory Board. Two-thirds of these new members are from outside Japan. The majority of them are not only leading investigators in our field of specialization, they also have long-established associations with members of our Society, including members of the Editorial Board of this journal. Many of the leading Japanese anesthesiologists have studied under these specialists in the early days of their education and still hold them in high esteem as mentors. The Editorial Board members are deeply

grateful for their acceptance of our invitation to join the Advisory Board of the *Journal of Anesthesia*. We believe that their valuable experience and expertise will be great assets to us.

Inside the back cover of the journal is the Guide for Authors, which has undergone some revision. The new Guide has been expanded to two full pages for easier reading but without major changes in our editorial policies and principles. Contents of the previous Prerequisites for Publication have been incorporated in the Guide for Authors. Thus, requests to conform to the "Uniform requirements for manuscript submitted to biomedical journals," including authorship and ethical issues, now appear in the Guide for Authors. Special Articles and Book and Multimedia Reviews have been added as new categories for submissions. The requirement of a cover page, specified in the old Guide, has been abolished. Instead of a cover page, a title page will carry essential information about the manuscript including names and affiliations of all authors. The number of words permitted for the abstract of an original work has been increased from 200 to 250 words. The certification form to accompany all submissions has been simplified in format but still requires the signature of all authors. The Editorial Board has considered the possible adoption of a new system that will include submissions and peer review on-line, but no decision on these procedures will be made at present. We hope that contributors will find this new Guide for Authors much easier to refer to.

The importance of easy access to the contents of the journal on the Internet has already been pointed out by the new members of the Advisory Board. Currently, we offer two ways to browse the *Journal of Anesthesia* on the Internet. One is by accessing the "LINK" web site of our publisher, Springer-Verlag, at <http://www.springer.de>. Full access to an entire article in PDF format is limited to Society members and individual subscribers of the print version, but the table of contents

and abstracts of articles are freely available. General instructions for accessing Springer-Verlag's "LINK" are found in each issue of the journal, with additional instructions for full on-line access to the *Journal of Anesthesia* by individual Society members shown on a separate page. The alternative access to the *Journal of Anesthesia* is via the home page of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists at <http://www.anesth.or.jp>. Pages of the *Journal of Anesthesia* can be accessed easily by clicking the appropriate icons. Text files of entire articles excluding figures and tables will be freely available with no password required. The home page of the

Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists is currently being reconstructed, and the procedure for accessing it will undergo some changes in the near future.

We believe that with these changes in our Advisory Board and in our Guide for Authors we enhance the contribution that the *Journal of Anesthesia* provides to our profession. We hope that our members and readers will join us in that belief with their continued support.

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