

Editorials

***Journal of Anesthesia* to be included in Index Medicus/MEDLINE database**

HIDENORI TOYOOKA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Department of Anesthesiology, University of Tsukuba, 1-1-1 Tennodai, Tsukuba 305-8575, Japan

I am happy to announce to members of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists (JSA) and to all our readers and contributors that in June 2003 the *Journal of Anesthesia* was selected for indexing and inclusion in Index Medicus and its electronic counterpart, MEDLINE.

Ever since the establishment of the *Journal of Anesthesia* in 1987, we have been interested in having our journal indexed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) for Index Medicus/MEDLINE and have exerted every effort to make the journal an international publication of quality. The *Journal of Anesthesia* was recently evaluated by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee of NLM, and its quality of scientific content, including originality and importance, was adjudged to be worthy of inclusion.

The indexing of the *Journal of Anesthesia* in MEDLINE is planned to begin with issues from the current year, with all articles published before this year available on-line in PUBMED. As a result, the *Journal of Anesthesia* will receive more attention worldwide from anesthesiologists and critical care physicians. This surely will lead to an increase in the number of submissions to the journal and also to an increase in the number of articles from the journal that are cited by authors in other publications.

Having received this gratifying news, I, together with members of the Editorial Board, would like to express sincere gratitude to our publisher, Springer-Verlag Tokyo, for their editorial support. The inclusion of the contents of the *Journal of Anesthesia* in their on-line database SpringerLink was helpful in obtaining the

results we sought. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Advisory Board for their constant support for the journal.

The *Journal of Anesthesia* has reached a new stage in its development. Although it is the society journal of JSA, we will continue to welcome manuscripts from all over the world. At the same time, we feel that it is our duty to encourage the international publication in our journal of unique and promising studies carried out by our society members, because we know of several cases of very important scientific discoveries made by Japanese scientists that were not recognized internationally, as their reports were available only in Japanese.

Shortening the time from the receipt of a manuscript to its publication is another important subject in academic journal editing today. In order to shorten the time to publication, we believe that in the near future our adoption of an on-line editorial system, including electronic submission, revision, and peer review of manuscripts, will gradually replace the conventional paper-based editorial system. An electronic editorial system will reduce postage and administrative costs. Most importantly, however, it will extend our reach to the international authors and reviewers who are essential for the future development of the journal.

Many beneficial effects are expected to ensue from the inclusion of the *Journal of Anesthesia* in the Index Medicus database. We believe that this step will serve as a catalyst for the further development of the journal, attracting the kinds of articles that stimulate and satisfy the scientific and clinical interests of our profession.