

William G. Robertson

Important information for authors

Published online: 7 November 2003
© Springer-Verlag 2003

We have now had a year to review the progress of *Urological Research* since its changeover in emphasis from being a general urology journal to one that concentrates mainly on urolithiasis and its related areas of research. The original intention was to continue to accept a proportion of manuscripts on general topics in urology but gradually to increase the percentage of stone-related papers published in each issue. We thought that, as a consequence of this policy, the number of general urology papers submitted would gradually decline. In the event, the number of manuscripts received in that area has not decreased as anticipated and, coupled with the sharp increase in the number of papers submitted on the topic of urolithiasis, this year we have received twice as many manuscripts as in previous years. We are faced, therefore, with the choice of having to reject a much larger proportion of submitted papers or of further limiting the scope of the journal. In this connection, it is now clear that, based on present submission figures, the journal could survive solely on the publication of papers on urolithiasis and its related areas of research.

Following a recent meeting with the publishers and after consultation with the Associate Editors, we have decided that, as from 1 January 2004, the journal will focus *solely* on papers on urolithiasis and its related research areas. Any aspect of renal stone-formation will be considered for publication including diagnosis,

epidemiology, environmental studies, nutrition, ion transport, micropuncture studies, pathogenesis, chemistry of crystallisation, genetics, inborn errors of metabolism, molecular and cell biology, clinical biochemistry, endourology, stone removal techniques, medical management and preventative therapy. This means that from 1 January 2004 we will not accept for review any new manuscripts in the area of general urology. Any manuscripts that have been already submitted in that area and those submitted before 31 December 2003 will continue to be considered for publication in the journal in the usual way but I regret that those submitted thereafter will be returned to the authors so that they may submit them to an alternative journal specialising in general urology.

We are aware that this will produce a fundamental change in the emphasis of the journal and a potential change in readership. However, if we are to increase the impact factor of *Urological Research*, we consider that it may be better to concentrate on a single area of research and to try and capture the major share of the market in that area. This was the thinking that led to the change in emphasis of the journal in the first instance. Time alone will tell if that decision was correct. It will require major commitment on the part of the Editor, Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Board to ensure that the venture is successful.

W. G. Robertson
Editor of Urological Research,
Institute of Urology & Nephrology,
48 Riding House Street, London,
W1W 7EY, United Kingdom
E-mail: urol-res@ucl.ac.uk
Tel.: +44-20-76799399
Fax: +44-20-76799399