

Editorial

The last year saw several major changes at the *Journal*. Foremost amongst these was the move from Guildford to Chorleywood in Hertfordshire at the end of 2003, which inevitably disrupted the work of the editorial office for a time while equipment was moved and personnel changed. The change was, in fact, accomplished with relatively minor disruption to production and we have quickly settled into a new rhythm of working. We have been fortunate in our appointment of Rosamund Greensted, who has worked tirelessly to keep pace with the flow of submitted material. Last year we received a total of 673 manuscripts and have, to date, published 224 of them. The move to manuscript submission on floppy disc has proved a success and we are now rapidly moving towards online submission. Indeed, after quite a protracted teething period, the new web site is now up and running and is receiving manuscripts on a regular basis, and we particularly thank Nick Pring of Tell Communications in Plymouth who has persisted, with dogged determination, to iron out the inevitable problems that arise from commissioning such a major project.

JLO Travelling Fellowships were awarded to Dr Justin Weir, Mr Peter Andrew and Mr Nitesh Patel. The reports of their travels will be published in the *Journal* in due course. We have, within the last year, changed the structure of these fellowships of the future in recognition of the fact that the amounts previously awarded could only provide a fraction of the total costs incurred during such periods of travel. As a result we are now offering two fellowships of £5000 each, and we have also allocated funds for pump priming of original research. These awards are open to all subscribers throughout the world and have been advertised in recent issues of the *Journal* as well as being advertised on the web site. Perhaps because of the disruption caused by the reconfiguration of the editorial office we did not appoint a visiting professor last year but the Board of JLO (1984) Ltd has decided that we should, in future, appoint two a year: these appointments will be based on the recommendation of the Presidents of the Section of Otology and Section of Laryngology & Rhinology of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) and each visiting professor will be asked to present one of his/her lectures at the RSM in London.

As a reflection of the increasing volume of submissions, the New Year sees the arrival of several new assistant editors including Brian Bingham, Marcus Brown, Edward Fisher and Richard Wight. In addition, we have been fortunate to secure the services of Professors D S Grewal and B S Gendeh to represent our interests in the Indian subcontinent and in Malaysia. Needless to say, I am deeply



Robin Youngs, the *JLO*'s new joint editor

indebted to the efforts of all of our assistant editors and am very conscious of the many hours of hard work that they undertake on behalf of the *Journal*.

Perhaps most significantly, the New Year sees the appointment of Robin Youngs as joint editor. Robin's work on endoscopic sinus surgery and middle ear surgery is well known and he has lectured widely on these subjects both at home and abroad. He has worked as an assistant editor on the *Journal* for six years and we are delighted that he has agreed to step into the shoes of Neil Weir who is, sadly, stepping down after a period of 12 years in post. However, I am pleased to say that we are not losing Neil's services altogether, for he has agreed to continue to edit the abstracts section of the *Journal* and will also continue to be involved on the Board of JLO (1984) Ltd.

I am, as ever, grateful to Michael Hellyar who has continued to manage our finances with aplomb, our subeditor Jenny Almond for her diligence and attention to detail and Delia Siedle of RSM Press who manages our affairs with great insouciance. I extend to them and to all others who work on behalf of the *Journal*, as well as to our contributors and readers, belated wishes for a happy New Year.

GUY KENYON
EDITOR