Aesthetic plastic surgery is today a truly international discipline. An astonishing number of congresses, courses, and seminars are taking place each year all over the world. And an astonishing number of participants are attending these meetings to present their procedures, experiences, and philosophies to their colleagues for discussion and criticism.

Unfortunately, this enthusiasm does not always extend to the writing and publishing of original papers in our discipline. There are several reasons for this. The preparation of such papers is laborious, time-consuming, and often expensive. Some potential contributors might be reluctant to subject their work to a peer review process that they feel is unwilling to consider procedures or philosophies that fall outside established practice or that clash with the personal opinions of reviewers and editors. Some surgeons have experienced having their papers rejected only because they do not conform to the required format or accepted English language standards, with no clear explanation of the problems or guidance for making the necessary corrections provided.

Aesthetic Surgery Journal is committed to giving all of our international colleagues the opportunity to communicate their philosophies, procedures, and experiences in aesthetic surgery. We want this journal to be the forum for all international authors whose papers meet the recognized standards for scientific exchange. There is no better place to publish; Aesthetic Surgery Journal is the largest-circulation clinical journal of aesthetic surgery in the world, with subscribers in more than 60 countries.

Because I am the International Editor of Aesthetic Surgery Journal, it is my responsibility and my pleasure to contact colleagues whose native language is not English, to offer them space in this journal, and to help them with the preparation of their manuscripts. This is particularly important in the case of those colleagues who have difficulty in obtaining access to international journals for the publication of their papers because they are insufficiently practiced in the English language. I cordially invite all of our international colleagues to send us their manuscripts, with the assurance that they will be well received, fairly reviewed and, once accepted, published without unnecessary delay.

We have already taken several steps to open our pages to our international colleagues. First, beginning with our January-February 2001 issue, we have created a new heading, “International Contribution,” in the Scientific Forum of this journal. This heading is reserved specifically for the publication of such articles. Second, the online version of Aesthetic Surgery Journal now includes translations into Spanish of article abstracts from both the Scientific Forum and the Practice Forum of the journal, again beginning with the January-February 2001 issue. Translations of abstracts into Portuguese will begin shortly. We hope that these translations will help to improve our communication with our Iberian and Latin American colleagues and their universities.
In addition to these measures, the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) and the Aesthetic Surgery Education and Research Foundation (ASERF), in cooperation with the International Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, this year have co-sponsored a symposium entitled “International Innovations in Aesthetic Surgery.” This symposium will take place on May 4, 2001, in conjunction with the ASAPS/ASERF Annual Meeting. Our international colleagues were invited to present their communications at this symposium in an open and fraternal atmosphere. They have also been invited to submit their papers to Aesthetic Surgery Journal.

In all of these efforts, our purpose is to establish stronger, more direct scientific ties with our colleagues who practice outside the United States and to foster the international development of our specialty. ■

For information or help in submitting your manuscript to Aesthetic Surgery Journal or for obtaining assistance in writing or editing your manuscript through our Writers Referral Service, contact Paul Bernstein, Managing Editor, paul@surgery.org.