Editorial


October 2005 marks the first anniversary of the introduction of the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) for online submission, peer review, and transmission of manuscripts submitted to Aesthetic Surgery Journal. We are happy to inform you that the EES is proving to be an unqualified success.

Since the introduction of EES, manuscript submissions to Aesthetic Surgery Journal have increased by more than 40%. EES is not solely responsible for this increase; our reputation as the most widely read journal devoted exclusively to aesthetic plastic surgery, and in particular our growing network of affiliated international societies, also have something to do with it. Nevertheless, it is clear that both US and international contributors have been attracted by the ease and convenience of Web-based manuscript submission and review.

The system has shown itself to be especially useful in easing the sometimes onerous process of peer review. It gives the editorial office immediate access to a database of reviewers, including fields of specialization and availability, which is automatically updated each time a review request is accepted, declined, or returned.

It allows reviewers to make more informed decisions about reviewing any particular manuscript (since we can e-mail them the abstract) and to receive and return their reviews quickly. In many cases, we have noticed that the online format has given reviewers more flexibility to comment on the papers they evaluate, which benefits both our editors and our contributors. It also allows our editors to easily evaluate and track the progress of manuscripts and convey their suggestions and decisions to the editorial office. It is a win-win process for all concerned, since it saves time and energy for everyone (and also money, given the considerable costs involved in reproducing and mailing sometimes bulky manuscripts and artwork back and forth to reviewers and editors.) Above all, it benefits you, our readers and contributors, since it enables us to expedite manuscript decisions and publish outstanding papers more quickly. And in fact, contributors, reviewers, and editors have been unanimous in welcoming the implementation of EES.

Our publisher expects to introduce upgraded versions of EES in coming months. These updated versions will make it still easier for contributors to submit their manuscripts, and will give the editorial office additional flexibility in responding to the needs of our contributors, reviewers, and editors.

Until now, our editorial office has functioned as a “proxy” for those contributors who submitted manuscripts directly to our office on disk or by e-mail. This was a necessary step in implementing EES while contributors were still learning how to use the system. However, it meant that we could not take the fullest possible advantage of the benefits of EES, because it decreased the staff resources available for other essential editorial tasks.

Now that we have been using the system for a year, most of the manuscripts that we receive are being submitted through EES. Web-based manuscript submission and review has become standard not only for our journal, but throughout the publishing world. Consequently, we believe it is now time to move forward and establish it as our standard means of submission.

Beginning on January 1, 2006, we will accept manuscripts only through the EES system. At the same time, we will continue to provide resources and back-up sup-
Scientific Forum

port for those contributors unfamiliar with EES or similar systems. The EES Web site (http://www.ees.elsevier.com/asj/) includes a Tutorial for Authors, plus Guidelines for Art and a Guide for Authors outlining the requirements for submission to the journal.

Our editorial staff will be happy to assist contributors unfamiliar with the system or those who encounter problems with their submissions; staff can be reached by e-mail (journal@surgery.org) or by telephone (212-921-0500). We look forward to receiving your contributions, and to the continuing improvement and expansion of our journal through the benefits of online submission and review. ■

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