



Annual Report: Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry
Annual General Meeting, 8 June 2007

During the last twelve months, *JCPP* has maintained its healthy shape as evidenced by a number of measures:

- 418 non-commissioned manuscripts were received in 2006 (2005 total = 352), continuing the trend seen over the last several years of rising submission rates. This increase has held the rejection rate high, at around 70% (despite the move to 12 issues and the introduction of the 6,000 word limit for the majority of empirical articles) and ensures that only the highest quality manuscripts continue to be published in the Journal;
- A total of 5,664 institutions now have access to *JCPP*, either through a subscription or as a library included in a consortia deal – an increase of 45% since 2004;
- Total downloads of online articles in 2006 was 385,114, an increase of 17% compared to the previous year;
- The Journal's Impact Factor rose significantly to 3.9 after a number of years in the 2.5–3.0 range, ranking *JCPP* 3rd in the developmental psychology category; 7th in the psychiatry category; and on the shoulder of its nearest 'competitor' journal;
- Publication of manuscripts OnlineEarly occurs consistently between two-three months from acceptance and is an increasingly important incentive to authors.

The groundwork for these successes was laid down by my predecessors, in particular Frank Verhulst who, as our first overseas Editor-in-Chief, steered the journal through a number of important changes which have left a lasting legacy. Frank's term of office drew to a close at the end of 2006 as did that of two of our other editors - Francesca Happé and Aribert Rothenberger. The enormous effort, insight and energy of all three in supporting the *Journal* and contributing to its development over the years deserves our recognition and thanks. This change in editors was the first change to the extended editorial committee since it was first introduced in 2004. Whilst it is always a wrench losing skilled editors and good colleagues, it is always a great opportunity to welcome new editors and *JCPP* has been fortunate in attracting two new editors – Tobias Banaschewski (Mannheim, Germany) and Nurit Yirmiya (Jerusalem, Israel), whose presence will ensure the editorial team continues to reflect the international reputation of the Journal.

A Strategic Review was conducted at the January 2007 Editorial meeting, from which several important points emerged. Most notable was that, compared to other leading journals in the field, *JCPP* can uniquely claim to be the leading *international* journal on child and adolescent mental health – its authorship was split one-third UK, one-third Europe and one-third North American whereas competitor journals had somewhat provincial, home-based (ie predominantly USA/UK) authorship. One goal over the next years will be to further develop this global reach in terms of authorship, Editorial and Advisory Boards appointments and readership.

A journal is very much the sum of its parts and there have also been significant developments within individual sections of *JCPP*:

- The 2006 special Section on Neuroimaging in Children, edited by Danny Pine, was a first for *JCPP* as it introduced a colour image on the front cover as well as in papers in the issue. The 2007 special issue, to be edited by Jane Costello, will focus on Infant and Pre-School Mental Health
- Several papers from the 2006 Annual Research Review, which was published in March/April 2006, have already gained impressive citation and download records. The 2007 Annual Research Review, the first to be edited by our new Associate Editor, Jim Leckman appeared as a double-issue in March/April and took the format of a themed set of papers on theoretical and clinical perspectives on risk, resilience and recovery.
- The section on Annotations is coming to an end and, as the last few appear, their replacement Research Reviews, edited by the newly appointed Associate Editor James Blair (Bethesda, USA), are undergoing the commissioning, review and production process.
- The journal's Practitioner Reviews section also has a new Associate Editor, Isobel Heyman (London, UK).

The main piece of news in terms of production is the merger of Blackwell's with John Wiley & Sons. The new company will be called Wiley-Blackwell and we hope that this will offer opportunities to further develop North American and other international markets. For the present, we will be working with the same Blackwell team and the relationship, support and innovation from Blackwell's has once again been excellent.

The whole Editorial Team is grateful to the Editorial Office in London. They could not be more hard-working, supportive and friendly to work with. The presence of a stable and successful team is one reason that the Journal has been able to attract such a strong group of Editors to take on their respective roles.