

Editorial

An international vision of nutritional science

Readers who look at the material inside the front cover of the *British Journal of Nutrition* will have noticed rapid changes sweeping over the Editorial Board, over half of whom now come from outside the United Kingdom. This change reflects our desire to make clear that the *British Journal of Nutrition* is a truly international journal of nutritional science. This has, in fact, been true for many years in terms of papers submitted and published (over the last 5 years, for example, only 28% of papers received came from the UK) but the internationalization of our Editorial Board is a further step to remove any remaining feeling of a parochial journal.

Some readers may then ask why the journal retains the word British in its title. I can now reveal that this question has been vexing the Editorial Board for a number of years. It has been a difficult argument. One side holds that with the name British in the title the journal will never be accepted for the international journal which it clearly is in all other respects. The other side points to other parochial titles such as the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the fact that this clearly does those journals no harm. I do not think the argument is that simple: we cannot claim equal standing with the *New England Journal of Medicine* and it may be necessary to take positive steps to make our international

position more clear to the world. However, a series of enquiries and surveys over the past few years has provided no evidence whatsoever that a change of title would aid the Journal's image, and indeed a number of adverse effects of such a change have been identified (such as an interruption to our good citation record: the Journal presently stands eighth out of the forty-five journals of nutrition and dietetics listed by the Science Citation Index (1996 figures)). Therefore, the Journal will retain its title for the indefinite future and we, the Editorial Board, will strive to maintain its international standing by publication of the best nutritional science from all over the world, in the form of primary articles, review papers, supplements and correspondence.

Our international standing will be more apparent with the appearance of the Journal in electronic form. For further details watch this column or keep an eye on the web pages of CAB INTERNATIONAL (<http://www.cabi.org>) and the Nutrition Society (<http://www.nutsoc.org.uk>).

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