The number of submitted articles to SMJ continues to increase every year. This year we expect to receive 500 articles in addition to review articles, case reports, letters and correspondence. Approximately 50% will be accepted, and the total pages of this volume will be more than 1000 pages of English text.

The new features of the Journal this year will be:

Circulation. In 1998 the number of pages increased by 25% from the previous year and we expect a 40% increase in the coming year. Last year we published 6 issues of the Journal, and this year from January 1999 the Journal has been published monthly, with 12 issues in this volume. The increased number of issues, although will result initially in thinner copies, will have many benefits as it will allow an increase in the number of articles published each year, also will shorten the publication delay, and allow us to publish a more detailed Table of Contents, including the name of the authors for Clinical Notes, Letter to the Editor and Correspondence. The only major drawback of increasing the number of issues is the additional typing and mailing cost which, we will balance through subscribers and advertisers.

Articles. The authors will note an improvement in the layout of the articles with a clearer title and structured abstracts. The tables have greatly improved and are always re-formatted by the Copy Editing Staff. However, we still have problems with the quality of figures. We always ask the authors to send very high quality, glossy original figures, which have professional markings and are clearly labelled. Some figures will also be published in color if indicated. Some figures are redundant, or can be replaced by tables, especially those with bar graphs and pie charts. We advise all authors to read carefully the section on illustrations in the Instructions to Authors, and in the Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals.1,2

References. The Journal follows the Uniform Requirements, Vancouver style for references, however, in some articles the authors do not give enough attention to the style of the Journal, or the accuracy of the references. Our Copy Editors always check the references, but this may cause delay in publication, so we advise all the authors to give more attention to this section of their article. Read Instructions to authors carefully, and follow the abbreviated format for journal titles as indicated in Index Medicus.

Subscribers. We are always happy to hear from our readers with their critical comments on the Journal itself or the articles published. The success of any journal is reflected by the number of correspondence they receive and publish. The cost of the Journal, especially now that it is published monthly, is increasing and the Journal cannot continue without the monetary support of the subscribers which at the moment is nominal at SR180 ($50.00US).

Editorial and Advisory Boards. There is an increasing number of articles submitted to the Journal from neighboring and international countries, which are expected to account for 40% of our articles. In the new Advisory Board, we have invited a few International Scientists from neighboring countries to join us. In the near future, we will invite some International Scientists to be part of the Editorial Board to ensure the international image of the Journal.

References