

EDITORIAL

***International Psychogeriatrics* goes online**

Few of our regular readers will fail to note the bold new cover of this issue of *International Psychogeriatrics* or the subtle changes in internal layout. We have changed publishers and the journal is now produced by Cambridge University Press, of Cambridge UK, an independent academic publisher of high repute and venerable traditions which operates under a unique University of Cambridge charter. We have joined a stable of 170 academic journals whose flagship psychiatric journal (*Psychological Medicine*) is one of the most respected in the world.

As well as the potential gains in circulation and visibility that this new association will give us, it brings with it the enormous advantages of electronic publishing. International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) members and institutional subscribers can now gain access to *International Psychogeriatrics* online at www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_ipg where articles will be available as soon as they have been accepted and edited, well before the paper version of the issue in which they are to be published is due to appear. In addition, our entire corpus of back issues will soon be available online, so that any paper ever published in *International Psychogeriatrics* can be obtained with a few mouse clicks. IPA members and journal subscribers have been or will be sent a letter explaining how to gain access to the electronic version of the journal. All that will be needed in order to authorize full electronic access is a subscriber number, clearly displayed on the address package of the paper copy of the journal. Individuals who are not members and whose institutional libraries do not subscribe to *International Psychogeriatrics* should, of course, join IPA and lobby their libraries to subscribe. But even they can peruse issue contents and read abstracts online without charge and may download the full text of individual papers for a modest fee. I hope and expect that this important innovation will result in an increased awareness of our journal and a consequent rise in its Science Citations Index Impact Factor.

To reflect the needs of modern publishing and the requirements of our changed publisher, our Instructions to Authors have been fully revised, so **please read them** before submitting a paper as they will be rigorously applied from July 1st 2004. They can be found at the journal website and in the back of this issue. In future they will be updated at the website whenever necessary and published annually in the first journal issue of each annual volume. The chief change reflects our attempt to be consistent with the policies of the World Association of Medical Editors with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Researchers cannot

operate without funds nor clinicians practice without the latest medications and information. Contacts and associations with pharmaceutical and publishing companies are commonplace. As a consequence, in our discipline, potential conflicts of interest are the norm rather than the exception. Rather than evading the issue of possible or perceived conflict of interest, our editorial panel has taken the view that we should deal with it by being transparent so that our readers can make up their minds for themselves when assessing articles for possible bias or outside influence. To clear the air and get the ball rolling it is only appropriate that I make a clean breast of my possible conflicts of interest, based on past sources of income and support, and have done so at the foot of this editorial.

The highlight of this issue is the publication of the three papers which were voted first, second and third prize winners in the IPA's 2003 research awards. *International Psychogeriatrics* congratulates these authors on their deserved success and looks forward to many more distinguished contributions from these sources.

When I made my editorial debut in the June 2003 issue of this journal, I promised that readers would not have to put up with too many editorials from me. I now find that I have published four editorials in four successive issues! I retain the right to reappear in print here when next there is something important for me to communicate to our readers, but in most future issues I hope to yield this space to colleagues with something interesting to say on any and all aspects of our exciting and important discipline.

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Conflict of interest declaration

David Ames has been on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* since 1988. He has received research support from Cromedica, Eisai, Eli Lilly, Hoechst Marion Roussel, Janssen-Cilag, Parke Davis, Pfizer, Protodigm, Quintiles, Roche, Sanofi Synthelabo and Sandoz. He has received honoraria for speaking, writing or consulting from Eli Lilly, Janssen-Cilag, Lundbeck, Novartis, Parke Davis, Pfizer, SmithKlineBeecham, and Wyeth; financial assistance with registration, accommodation and/or travel expenses for conferences and meetings from Eisai, Janssen Cilag, Lundbeck, Novartis, Parke Davis and Pfizer and hospitality from Bristol Myers Squibb.