EDITORIAL

Embracing the future

The title “The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery” is owned by the American volume of our journal and we have, since the inception of the JBJS [Br] in 1948, regularly negotiated a contract to allow us to use the name. This has resulted in an extremely fruitful relationship over many years. However, even in the reporting of advances in orthopaedic surgery the landscape is constantly changing and the two volumes have become increasingly different journals during recent years.

Having two separate volumes of the leading journal in our specialty is, in some circles, thought to be confusing. Thus, it has been decided not to renew the current contract when it expires in 2015. Therefore, we are currently seeking a new title to advance the journal. There are many well recognised strengths of the JBJS [Br] and this will give us the opportunity to further extend them autonomously and independently. We have expanded considerably in the last few years which is reflected in an increase in submissions from 870 in 2002 to 1650 in 2009 and an increase in the number of specialist reviewers available to us worldwide from 200 to 700 during the same period. Our impact factor has also increased from 1.5 to 2.6 during the past five years. In addition, there have been many significant advances in the use of and resources on our website.

We shall continue to strive to attract the best clinical and basic research in orthopaedics and trauma, review them as extensively as we are able and rewrite the accepted papers with vigour and clarity.

This change allows us to embrace the future and continue to publish the best in orthopaedics in ways that respond to the growing needs of our orthopaedic community.

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EDITORIAL

The Frank Horan essay prize

We received 34 submissions for the inaugural Frank Horan essay prize. The standard of entries were very high. Preparing this kind of material is difficult. An essay is neither a scientific paper nor a short story. For these purposes it might be considered to be a short piece of writing bringing personal interpretation and observations to an aspect of surgical practice. The entries were read by Associate Editors and a short list prepared and the final judgement was made by Mr Frank Horan. The winner with a clear description of the effect of warfare on advances in the management of open fractures was Paul Hindle, who will receive his award at the combined BOA meeting in Glasgow later this month. The runner up was Alexia Karantana with an assessment of current controversies relating to the treatment of distal radial fractures. Various other chosen entrants have been asked to resubmit their contributions as possible annotations to be reviewed in the routine manner. We intend to award this prize biannually and there will be a further announcement next year regarding entries for the 2012 prize.