

## Editorial

## A new editorial system for the Journal of Pathology

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## Abstract

This editorial describes recent and forthcoming changes to the editorial structure of the *Journal of Pathology*, including on-line submission and manuscript tracking using Manuscript Central<sup>®</sup>. Copyright © 2002 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

## Introduction

Nothing stands still in the world of publishing. Around 18 months ago, the Journal launched the EarlyView service, which publishes articles on the Web before they have been compiled into a print issue [1]. The purpose of this editorial is to signal a number of further changes to the journal that, we hope, will enhance its immediacy and impact.

## Editorial Structure

Firstly, Associate Editors have been appointed to provide support for the Editor-in-Chief and assist in the processing of manuscripts through interaction with authors and referees. Secondly, a new editorial office has been opened in London in the Offices of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. A managing editor has been appointed to oversee the smooth running of the Journal and he will be based in the London office. This new structure will be

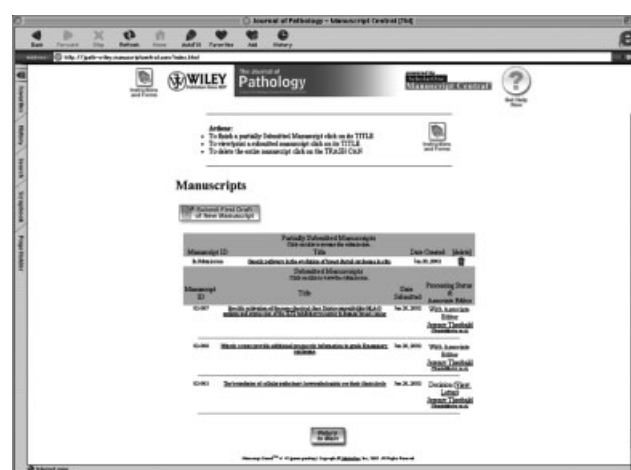
underpinned by a Web-based manuscript tracking system, Manuscript Central<sup>™</sup>, that allows rapid electronic communication between authors, editors and referees.

Manuscript Central<sup>TM</sup>

In collaboration with Wiley, who have introduced Manuscript Central<sup>®</sup> (ScholarOne) for a number of journals, this manuscript tracking system has been piloted for the *Journal of Pathology* in the Belfast editorial office over the last year. The system has a number of advantages over the conventional paper-based approach. For example, authors can submit manuscripts electronically, and can monitor their progress, via the journal of pathology Manuscript Central website (<http://jpath-wiley.manuscriptcentral.com/>; Figures 1 and 2) thus allowing a more rapid response from the editorial team. Editors can assign and invite referees online and by e-mail respectively. Referees can view the manuscript directly from the website, print it for



**Figure 1.** Screen shot of the Journal of Pathology Manuscript Central website, illustrating the different ‘centres’ available



**Figure 2.** A typical 'Author Centre' illustrating manuscripts at various stages of submission

review and submit their review online. This 'paperless' communication is an ideal that we are working towards but we would like to reassure authors, referees and readers that a parallel paper system will be maintained until we are confident that Manuscript Central<sup>™</sup> is sufficiently robust that no paper 'backup' is required. For example, the resolution of images uploaded to the website is unlikely to be sufficient for prints of appropriate quality to be generated and referees may not be happy to view these solely on a computer screen. Initially, submission and review of paper copies will need to be maintained for those authors and referees who do not have ready access to electronic facilities.

## Instructions for Authors

The immediate consequence of the introduction of Manuscript Central<sup>™</sup> is that new instructions for authors are required in order to explain the new system. These new instructions are printed in this issue of the journal and are available through the *Journal of Pathology* Manuscript Central<sup>™</sup> web-site. Full details of the new arrangements are provided, including the 'fast decision' policy that is being introduced to speed up the decision-making process.

## Contents Alerts

Usage of the online version of the *Journal of Pathology* has increased dramatically, with 85% more downloads of articles in 2001 than in 2000. Through the Wiley Interscience Contents Alerts service, users can now sign up to have the table of contents for the Journal delivered to them by e-mail as soon as a new issue is published online. This free service applies to all registered users of Wiley Interscience, regardless of whether or not they subscribe to the journal. The contents are hyperlinked to the abstracts for non-subscribers, and the full article for subscribers.

To activate Contents Alerts for the *Journal of Pathology*, you must first login to Wiley Interscience, then go to the Journal's "Available Issues" page and click on the ADD ALERT button. You will then be prompted to confirm the alert. We hope that users will find this service helpful in informing them about the latest hot articles of relevance to them.

## Change of Editor-in-Chief

The changes described above coincide with the transfer of the role of Editor-in-Chief from Professor Peter Toner to Professor Simon Herrington who has been a member of the editorial board since 1995 and an Associate Editor since 2001. We have both been involved in the implementation of these changes which should make for a relatively 'seamless' transition.

## Conclusion

We are convinced that these initiatives will enhance the speed of publication of the *Journal of Pathology*, from submission through the peer-review process to publication on-line and on paper. We encourage authors and referees to embrace this new system and to use the on-line facilities provided by Manuscript Central<sup>™</sup> and by Wiley Interscience.

## Reference

1. Toner PG, Reece D. The journal of pathology publishes faster on EarlyView. *J Pathol* 2000; **191**: 111.

**Professor Peter G Toner and  
Professor C Simon Herrington**

After eight years in the Editor's chair, I hand over to my successor with mixed emotions. To be in charge of a leading international journal is like taking a friend's cherished Rolls Royce for a long drive. The journey is undertaken with apprehension, for fear of scraping the paint, but the experience is recalled with pleasure when, all too soon, the destination has been safely reached.

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the success of the Journal during those eight years, and particularly the authors of well over four thousand submitted manuscripts, for sending your work to the Journal of Pathology. Regrettably, success for one author means disappointment for another, since the Journal does not have the space to accommodate all of the manuscripts which we receive. To those whose papers I have had to turn away, I am grateful for your good grace in accepting the Editor's decision, and, on occasion, for your courtesy in pointing out an error of judgement which I have then been able to rectify. Thanks also to the readership of the Journal, for your continuing support, as evidenced by the sustained position of the Journal within the impact factor "premier league".

I am grateful to the many hundreds of expert Referees for whose advice I have called over these years. For no material reward, you have generously given your time to offer me your opinions and to set out your critical insights for the benefit of our authors. Through your dedication to the concept of community of scholarship, you are the ultimate guarantors of the Journal's reputation.

I am grateful to my Associate Editors and to the distinguished members of my Editorial Board, for your advice and support. Dr Maureen Walsh and Dr Damian McManus, colleagues and friends in Belfast, made it possible for me to take an occasional break from the editorial treadmill without the business of the Journal grinding to a halt. I am indebted to Professors Peter Hall, James Kirkpatrick and Phil Quirke, for

your Guest Editorship of the three annual review issues that have appeared in recent years. The record of electronic access and of citations confirms the already self-evident success of this important addition to the Journal's regular output.

I am especially grateful to Mrs Priscilla Clark and Mrs Dawn Wylie, my dedicated and tireless secretaries, who have provided the Journal with its human face. Your courtesy, efficiency and kindness will be remembered with gratitude by all those who have had dealings with the Editorial Office.

I am also indebted to the staff of John Wiley and Sons, the Journal's publishers during my term of office, for your unfailing efficiency in the mechanics of monthly publication and for the resultant quality of the printed page. Dr Mike Davis, Publishing Director, and his colleagues have given the Journal unstinting support, through wise professional advice and by sustained investment in the electronic developments which continue to enhance the service which the Journal provides to its readers and its authors.

Finally, I thank the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Journal's proprietors, for entrusting their cherished Rolls Royce to my care. I am pleased to report that the paint remains intact. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Editor-in-Chief and I wish Professor Simon Herrington and his new Editorial Team every success in the years ahead.

**Peter G Toner**



**Peter G Toner**

It was with some trepidation that I agreed to succeed Professor Peter Toner as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pathology*. The *Journal of Pathology* is a strong international journal with a clear brand and a long, distinguished history. As a long-standing member of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, I have received the journal for many years and I have had the privilege of serving as a member of the editorial board since 1995. I would like to thank Professor Toner on behalf of the members of the Society; the editorial board; and the authors and readers for his commitment to the Journal and for the very high standards that he has set during his term of office. I hope that I can go some way to emulating his professionalism in order to take the journal forward over the coming years.

**C Simon Herrington**



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