

Editorial

The *British Journal of Nutrition*, an international journal that continues to develop

I have been Editor-in-Chief of the *British Journal of Nutrition* (*BJN*) for six months now. So far the experience has been a generally enjoyable one, although not without its challenges and difficulties. One frustration has been the occasional comment that *BJN* 'is a British journal', with an underlying suggestion that the journal is run entirely by the British and that it does not publish too much research from outside the United Kingdom. My response has been to suggest that the originator of the comment obviously doesn't look at the journal! In fact the signs that *BJN* is a truly international journal are rather evident. The cover carries the title 'BJN: An International Journal of Nutritional Science', although on-line users of the journal probably do not spend too much time looking at the cover! Of the three Deputy Editors of *BJN*, one is German and another American. The Editorial Board includes members from fifteen countries. Only 40% of the Editorial Board is British, there are seventeen members from seven countries in Continental Europe, eleven North American members, and members from China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Manuscript reviewers cover a similarly wide geographical spread. Thus, there is plenty of evidence that those responsible for reviewing and making decisions on manuscripts represent an international mix. What about the origin of papers published in *BJN*? Browsing the contents of any issue will reveal quite a mix of countries of origin of published papers. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the regions of affiliation of corresponding authors of papers published in *BJN* in 2005. This table demonstrates the remarkable geographical diversity of the papers we publish and, I think, demonstrates the true international nature of the journal. It is noteworthy that only about 20% of papers published in *BJN* in 2005 were from the United Kingdom. Papers were published from sixteen other European countries, corresponding to over 45% of total publications, with France (10% of papers), Germany (7.5% of papers), Spain (6% of papers) and The Netherlands (5.5% of papers) being prominent. Scandinavian countries contributed 7% of published papers. Papers were published from two North American countries (USA (6.5% of papers) and Canada), two South American countries (Brazil and Argentina), South Africa, six Asian countries (Japan (6% of papers), China, Taiwan, South Korea, India and Singapore), Australia and New Zealand.

In my Editorial in January of this year (Calder, 2006) I highlighted and paid tribute to the many changes to the journal introduced during the Editorships of my predecessors Keith Frayn and Paul Trayhurn. I stressed that these changes have served to significantly improve the journal for

subscribers, readers and authors. One major development in this respect is the relatively recent on-line availability of the entire archive of *BJN* right back to volume 1, issue 1 in September 1947. In my January 2006 Editorial, I also commented that scientific publishing is evolving rapidly and that further changes would be introduced with the aim of further improving the service that *BJN* offers its users and of assuring an enhanced status for the journal. On-line subscribers will have noticed the relatively recent availability of Fast Track papers; these are papers that have not yet been published but which are available in their final, ready-to-be-published form (i.e. as corrected proofs). This means that authors' work is available to on-line subscribers some weeks prior to publication. I have recently made the decision to make authors' work available much sooner than this. From some time later this year or early in 2007 accepted manuscripts will be available to on-line subscribers, meaning that authors' work will be accessible (to those with an on-line subscription) some months before publication of the paper. The aim is to make research findings available to peers much more quickly than occurs at present, which will enhance the usefulness and appeal of the journal to readers and increase the visibility, accessibility and impact of authors' work. This is likely just one of many developments that will occur over the next few years as publishing and use of journals relies more on electronic access and is able to capitalise on the possibilities that this offers. I trust that subscribers, readers and authors will find these developments of value.

My predecessor typically used his Editorial at this time of year to identify and comment on highly cited articles published in *BJN* over the previous few years (Trayhurn, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005). I elected to do this in my January Editorial (Calder, 2006) when the impact factor and other statistics related to journal performance were available and I intend to continue with this cycle. However, I think that it is valuable to preview some of the most highly cited papers of 2003 and 2004 at this point, since these will determine the impact factor of the journal for 2005. Table 2 lists the thirteen papers published in *BJN* in 2003 and 2004 that were most highly cited in 2005. It is gratifying to see the high rate of citation of these papers which is indicative of the *BJN* publishing material that is valuable to others. The list of highly cited papers once again highlights the importance of Review and Horizons in Nutritional Science articles in assuring the high profile and impact of *BJN*. I eagerly await the announcement of the impact factor of *BJN* for 2005 and the related statistics, and I will report on these in my Editorial in January 2007.

Table 1. Regions of affiliation of corresponding authors of articles published in the *British Journal of Nutrition* during 2005

Region	Full papers & Short communications		Other articles published in main issues*		Articles published in Supplements		Total	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Europe (of which UK)	151 (48)	65.4 (20.8)	20 (10)	68.9 (34.4)	19 (3)	86.4 (13.6)	190 (61)	67.4 (21.6)
North America	19	8.2	3	10.3	3	13.6	25	8.9
South America	4	1.7	1	3.4	–	–	5	1.8
Africa	2	0.9	–	–	–	–	2	0.7
Asia	47	20.3	1	3.4	–	–	48	17.0
Australasia	8	3.5	4	13.8	–	–	12	4.3

* Includes Editorials, Commentaries, Review articles, Horizons in Nutritional Science articles, Letters to the Editor, and Book Reviews.

Table 2. Articles published in *British Journal of Nutrition* in 2003 and 2004 that were most highly cited in 2005

	Type of article	Citations in 2005	Total citations to date
Trayhurn & Wood (2004)	Horizons	54	79
Zitterman <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Review	44	85
Whanger (2004)	Review	27	42
Wood & Trayhurn (2003)	Horizons	23	35
Magee & Rowland (2004)	Review	20	26
Harrold & Williams (2003)	Horizons	16	23
Kay <i>et al.</i> (2004)	Full paper	15	16
Rayman (2004)	Review	14	16
Tully <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Full paper	13	28
Flint <i>et al.</i> (2004)	Full paper	13	15
Holven <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Full paper	12	22
Burdge <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Full paper	12	21
Trebbles <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Full paper	12	20

Data were obtained from ISI Web of Science® on 17 May 2006.

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