Editorial

It is a pleasure to welcome readers of the journal at the start of the last year of this century looking forward to the next millenium.

Looking back to Volume 7 which had been published in 1998 both the Editors and the Publisher were very satisfied concerning layout and content of the journal. Approximately 60 papers were accepted and published in Volume 7, covering the 432 pages available for 6 issues. That means that more full papers and Reviews were published in comparison with the high number of Short Communications during the first 6 Volumes. Although copy flow of high standing Research papers is a matter of concern, the processing speed is still improving, resulting in an average acceptance-publication time of less than 3 months! Furthermore it could be mentioned that over 75% of the articles are from authors in Europe, although geographic analysis of the subscribers learned that over 40% of the journal was distributed in the USA. We are now aware of the fact that these statistics do not represent readers interested in specific topics which have been in *Mediators of Inflammation*. Since the journal is available for Online Usage and the experts

alerting service SARA (Scholarly Articles Research Alerting), we are now able to evaluate the main fields of interest of our readers for the previous Volumes of *Mediators of Inflammation*.

We have learned from this evaluation that almost all of the top ten articles were (Invited) Reviews, mainly focussed on nitric oxide and cytokines. *Mediators of Inflammation* remains committed to promoting the (rapid) publication of all aspects of cellular mediators, including lipid mediators, and biological response modifiers.

Institutional registration for Online versions of the journal is increasing. This enables a number of scientists to have earlier notice of important peer-reviewed Research papers and Reviews in the field of mediators of inflammation. Since the average acceptance-publication time is rather low for a bimonthly published journal, the short author-reader turnover time could be the most important factor when considering 'to be or not to be' for a scientific journal in the next millenium.

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Executive Editor