



2006 — Thanking MJA reviewers

It is that time of year again when we publicly thank all our reviewers for their efforts in ensuring that the *MJA* publishes only the best possible articles. In the 12 months from November 2005 to October 2006, 1757 reviewers have helped us in our quest for quality — they are listed below and we thank them enormously for their assistance and diligence. We do not send all manuscripts out for review — many are returned to their authors after being discussed at our Editors' meetings, mostly for reasons of poor science or presentation, or content that is not suited to the broad general readership of the *MJA* or that would be more appropriately published elsewhere. Reviewers are asked to complete their reviews within 3 weeks (2 weeks for letters) and most manage to meet this deadline, as evidenced by a mean time to complete reviews (for all article types) of 16 days. The range, however, is from an extraordinary 1 hour (this was for a letter, but we think this reviewer must need a busier day job!) to a more tardy 10 weeks (fortunately this sort of delay is very infrequent). These times are, of course, from the day a reviewer agrees to review — it may take us a few weeks to find a willing reviewer. The Box shows the fate of the manuscripts we received between July 2005 and June 2006.

Virtually all our communication with authors and reviewers is now by email, and our relatively new online submission system (<http://www.editorialmanager.com/mja>) has streamlined many of our office procedures. Although the system seems to be popular with reviewers, we note that some authors have found the initial login process to be complicated and time consuming — we will pass these comments on to the programmers but we would like to reassure authors that any subsequent submissions will be much simpler as all your details will already be on the system.

Under the auspices of our parent company, the Australasian Medical Publishing Company, *MJA* staff have worked on several other publications this year: we have taken on the publishing side of the journal *Critical Care and Resuscitation*, in addition to *ADF Health* and *Australian Health Review*. We have also published *Looking good* (a fully illustrated and detailed consumer's guide to cosmetic medicine and surgery), *Teaching on the run* (based on our very popular Journal series of teaching tips for busy doctors), *Caesarean section: a manual for*

doctors, and a second revised edition of *MJA Practice Essentials — Dermatology*, all available through the *MJA* bookroom (<http://www.mja.com.au/public/bookroom/buybooks.html>).

In April 2007, the *MJA* will be hosting the annual meeting of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) for the first time. In fact, it will be the first time that this committee of editors of eminent journals, formed in 1978 and previously known as the "Vancouver Group", has ventured to the southern hemisphere. The ICMJE maintains and updates the *Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals: writing and editing for biomedical publication* (<http://www.icmje.org>). This document is essential reading for

anyone wanting to learn "the rules" of medical publishing or optimise the chance of getting published. The Committee has gradually broadened its concerns to include ethical principles of reporting research in biomedical journals and, most recently, the public registration of all clinical trials.

This year, authors and reviewers may have missed the straightshooting and insightful editorial advice of one of our Deputy Editors, Dr Mabel Chew. She left us at the end of 2005 to pursue travel, clinical work and an editorial role at the *BMJ*. Dr Tanya Grassi has rejoined the Editorial team, returning to the Journal after several years in the wilderness of veterinary and private medicine.

At the end of the year, the *MJA* will be most reluctantly farewelling Craig Bingham, Manager of Communications Development, who has been a pivotal member of the Editorial team for 16 years. Craig has made major contributions to *MJA* editing and style, and to our book publishing, and he has been responsible for almost every technological advance at the Journal since we traded our blue pencils for computer keyboards. He has also been recognised internationally as a pioneer in the development of Internet-based open peer review. We wish him every good fortune for the future.

We wish all our readers a happy holiday season. We hope you enjoy this special double issue, and we look forward to keeping you informed and entertained again next year.

Bronwyn Gaut

Deputy Editor, *The Medical Journal of Australia*, Sydney, NSW
medjaust@ampco.com.au

Manuscripts received 2005–2006

Total (accepted/received)	606/1389 (44%)
Research	108/457 (24%)
Cases	20/147 (14%)
Reviews	12/41 (29%)
Letters	201/304 (66%)
Mean time (days)	
To reject	34
To accept	69
Number of reviewers used	1757
Impact factor	2.125

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Reviewers

01/11/2005 – 31/10/2006

Peter J Abbott
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 Stephen P Ackland
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 Stephen Adelstein
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 Peter C Arnold
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 Robert C Atkins
 V Judy Atkinson
 Robyn G Attewell
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 Peter D Baade

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 Paul M Bailey
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 Ross StC Barnetson
 Bruce H Barraclough

Alexandra L Barratt
 Andrew Bartholomaeus
 Michael B Barton
 Ivan B Bastian
 Diana Battistutta
 Paul A Bauert
 Peter E Baume
 Louise A Baur
 Margaret Bearman
 Spencer W Beasley
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 Stephen Begg
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 Alan Bensoussan
 Michael Berk

Andrew D Bersten
 James Donovan Best
 J H Nicholas Bett
 Jen Bichel-Findlay
 Barbara E Biggins
 Beverley-Ann Biggs
 A Michael Bilous
 Colin W Binns
 Donald J Birkett
 Deborah A Black
 Peter N Black
 Robert J Black
 Christopher Bladin
 Stephen L Blamey
 Grant A Blashki
 Ilse Blihnault
 Sidney Bloch
 Peter A Blombery
 Zeev Blumenfeld
 Ruth Boaden
 Felix Bochner
 Terry D Bolin

