



## MJA 2008: home sweet home

And so we come to the end of another year. It's been a very busy one behind the front door at the Journal. As you may have read earlier in the year, the Journal's parent company, the Australasian Medical Publishing Company, bought a building in the Sydney CBD, into which we moved in April. We now have a permanent home that is central and easily accessible, and have even had a few authors visit us — it is always a pleasure to put faces to people we otherwise know best by their email address! The move, along with some unexpected alterations in staffing and workload, have kept the pressure high, but our dedicated staff have, as always, responded above and beyond the call of duty. (Thanks everyone!)

Not all moved to our new home. Sadly, we farewelled Senior Assistant Editor Helen Randall to a well earned retirement. Helen worked for the Journal for 20 years, a tireless warrior against poor language and inadequate science. Her wealth of experience and knowledge, superior editing skills and calm, practical approach to the daily difficulties of a busy publishing house have been sorely missed.

MJA Editor of 13 years, Dr Martin Van Der Weyden, was honoured by the Australian Medical Association this year with the President's Award "in recognition of his services to *The Medical Journal of Australia*, to the medical profession, and the AMA". He also attended the International Committee of Journal Editors' meeting at the home of the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in Philadelphia, where these guardians of medical publishing further honed requirements for reporting randomised trials and investigated a more systematic approach to assessing conflict of interest.

Our Indigenous Health (May) and General Practice (July) theme issues are now "part of the furniture", published at the same time each year. Authors with interests in these areas should mark their diaries now, realising that submission deadlines are about 4 to 5 months beforehand to allow for peer review, revision and preparation for publication. Also

continuing are the \$5000 Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Prize for the best essay about Indigenous health (this year to Barry Fewquandie, see our 19 May issue) and the \$10000 MJA/Wyeth Prize for the best research article (to Karen Manley and her coauthors, see our 7 July issue).

Although we have freely welcomed all visitors to our virtual home for many years, this year we asked online readers to knock and identify themselves (register) before they could enter. This does not seem to have deterred our guests: about a quarter of a million "unique visitors" access the eMJA each month. Preparations are now being made to follow the more economically viable model of most of the other large biomedical journals: to allow free access to research articles and other material of urgent public health importance only, with other Journal content being available by subscription or individual payments. We will give you further details about changes to the eMJA as soon as they are finalised early next year. Our online bookshop, with almost 2000 items for sale (including brass name plates and anatomical charts), remains popular and will continue to welcome all comers.

A very big thank you to those (listed below) who have reviewed manuscripts for us this year, especially the "super-reviewers" of the Content Review Committee. Your efforts in maintaining the high quality of the science published in the Journal are invaluable. We also greatly appreciate those reviewers who, when too many commitments preclude participation, take time to recommend a suitably qualified colleague instead — this speeds up the reviewing process and enables us to constantly increase our pool of reviewers.

Finally, we thank contributors for entrusting us with your original contributions and, often vigorous, feedback. We hope you have a good summer break, and return to reinvigorate the pages of the Journal in 2009.

**Bronwyn Gaut**

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### Manuscripts received 2007–2008

<b>Total (accepted/received)</b>	691/1569 (44%)
Research	130/419 (31%)
Cases	27/179 (15%)
Reviews	9/41 (22%)
Letters	265/374 (71%)
<b>Mean days to decision</b>	
To reject 30	(research articles, 68)
To accept 73	(research articles, 91)
<b>Reviewers used (invited)</b>	1855 (3201)
<b>Impact factor</b>	2.537

#### Content Review Committee

Craig S Anderson  
Leon A Bach  
Flavia M Cicuttini  
Jennifer J Conn  
Marie-Louise B Dick  
Mark F Harris  
Paul D R Johnson  
Tom Kotsimbos  
Campbell Thompson  
Tim P Usherwood  
E Haydn Walters  
Bruce Waxman  
Owen D Williamson  
Jane Young  
Jeffrey D Zajac

#### Reviewers (reviews submitted 01/11/2007 – 31/10/2008)

Jon Adams  
Karen Adams  
Michael A Adena  
Philip D Aitken  
Katrina J Allen  
Marlies Alvarenga  
Janaki Amin  
Lisa H Amir  
Craig S Anderson  
Ian P Anderson  
Robert P Anderson  
Warwick P Anderson  
David Andresen  
Gavin Andrews  
Ross M Andrews

James A Angus  
Zahid Ansari  
Bruce K Armstrong  
Jennifer A Armstrong  
Kylie Armstrong  
Carolyn A Arnold  
Peter C Arnold  
Leonard F Arnolda  
Lisa Askie  
John J Atherton  
John R Attia  
Mark S Awerbuch  
Philip E G Aylward  
Peter D Baade  
Andrew K Bacon  
Christopher J Baggoley  
Ian J Baguley

Brian P Bailey  
Amanda Baker  
Kathy E Baker  
Philip R Baker  
Richard H Baker  
Raja C Bandaranayake  
Adrian G Barnett  
Bruce H Barraclough  
Christopher A Barton  
Michael B Barton  
Ivan B Bastian  
Robert G Batey  
Malcolm W Battersby  
Diana Battistutta  
Paul A Bauert  
Peter E Baume  
Louise A Baur

Trevor C Beard  
Richard Beasley  
Spencer W Beasley  
Gavin J Becker  
Lutz Beckert  
Justin J Beilby  
A Colin Bell  
Chaim M Bell  
Rinaldo Bellomo  
Richard A V Benn  
Christopher J Benness  
Belinda Bennett  
Derrick A Bennett  
Jill Benson  
Alan Bensoussan  
David I Ben-Tovim  
Norbert Berend

Michael Berk  
Samuel F Berkovic  
Robert J Berry  
Andrew D Bersten  
James D Best  
John P Best  
J H Nicholas Best  
Peng Bi  
Beverley-Ann Biggs  
A Michael Bilous  
Colin W Binns  
Sara Bird  
Donald J Birkett  
Robert Birrell  
Roderick O Bishop  
Deborah A Black  
Caroline C Blackwell



