



## Editorial and acknowledgements to the 2009 reviewers

Jean SCHOENEN, An JANSEN and Sylvie MULTON

The time around Christmas and New Year is commonly propitious to look back and strike the balance. 2009 has been truly an exceptional vintage for the *Acta Neurologica Belgica*. We have received 170 article *submissions* which is a 115% increase compared to previous years. Forty-nine percent came from European countries, 38% from the rest of the world and 13% from Belgium. Since the *acceptance rate* went down only from 49% to 43%, we have published more papers per issue than ever before. Although this should have increased the service to our readership, the reverse of the medal is that our impact factor which reflects the number of citations over the number of published articles, is at risk of decreasing next year. It is thus of uttermost importance that the articles we publish are of the best possible quality and that they get an optimal visibility. How can we improve both?

Visibility has been ameliorated in 2009 by a more straightforward access to the ANB page on the neuro.be website. Attractiveness for good quality articles depends admittedly on the impact factor, but also on a user-friendly submission system and an optimal access to the published material. Despite being more than a hundred years old, our *Acta Neurologica Belgica* are finally about to go modern. A new *web-based submission system* is operational since a few weeks. It still is in its infant shoes and needs some adjustments. It should, however, ease the

work for the authors, the reviewers and the editorial staff. The next important step on which the technical staff of the publisher is working since several months, is to provide full access to the ANB articles on PubMed. Hopefully this will be achieved within the next months.

Another factor that determines the success of a peer-reviewed journal is the quality and the speed of the comments made by the *reviewers*. Accepting to review a manuscript is truly a laudable task in these days where most of us are, like the white rabbit in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, running behind time. We would therefore like to express our sincere thanks to the colleagues listed below who have in 2009 accepted to take on their precious time and contributed to make the ANB better. Our reviewers were not only excellent, but also quick and reliable, as the average time between submission and reception of their response was 30 days, between submission and final decision 44 days. There are few, if any, peer-reviewed journals with such a record.

Last but not least, we thank you, our *readers*, for your confidence and remind you that our journal is open for your suggestions, comments and professional/academic announcements. To all of you we would like to present our best wishes for a healthy and stimulating New Year,...with ANB as your bedside book.