The Editorial Board of *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

Andrew S. Wechsler, MD

In 2005, we received more than 1400 submissions in our office: a 14% increase over last year (and a 61% increase over 2001). Given the fact that most published articles undergo at least one and frequently two or more revisions, it is clear that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to those individuals, highlighted on the following pages, who serve so ably on our editorial board.

Individuals are nominated to the editorial board by a process of consultation between the Editor and the Section Editors that results in recommendation of names to the Council of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery for approval. Individuals who are asked to serve on the editorial board must have displayed competence and timeliness as a peer reviewer, evidence of important contributions to our field, and good common sense. Editorial board members reviewed on the average about 25 manuscripts last year; assignments ranged from 8 to 44 manuscripts, depending on one's area of expertise and the mix of manuscripts received by the *Journal*. Most of our board members are busy clinicians who carve time from evenings and weekends to perform this vital function. I can only state, quite simply and sincerely, the *Journal* and their colleagues are very much in their debt.

This year we wish to note the departure from the editorial board of Cary Akins, Friedhelm Beyersdorf, Joseph Coselli, Davis Drinkwater, Valluvan Jeevanandam, and Thomas Rice. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for the years of services each of these dedicated individuals has given to the *Journal*.

We welcome to the editorial board Michael Borger, John Hammon, Thierry-Pierre Carrel, Charles Huddleston, Nicholas Smedira, and James Luketich.

Many of you, our readers, are asked from time to time to provide peer review as a service to your colleagues. In previous editorials,^{1,2} I defined both the responsibilities and benefits of being a reviewer. The high impact factor of the *Journal* and its prestigious position in the top 3.4% of all published journals are the consequence of our rigorous peer review process. For those readers who have not been called upon to provide peer review but who have contributed to the literature and would like to participate in the process, we encourage you to log on to our Web site (<http://jtcvs.editorialmanager.com>), register as a reviewer, and self-classify your interests. I offer you my thanks in advance for any help you provide to us in the future.

References

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From Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Address for reprints: Andrew S. Wechsler, MD, Drexel University College of Medicine, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, 230 North Broad Street, Mail Stop 1111, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1192 (E-mail: Andrew.Wechsler@DrexelMed.edu; jtcvs@drexel.edu).

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