Dear colleagues,

Producing a journal is a competitive business and the challenges involved make product modification and intuitiveness necessary in order to keep abreast of current developments.

This issue of European Surgery thus presents new actors, novel concepts and a clear statement of intent: firstly, a shift towards Central Europe to adapt to the new political and economic changes, and secondly, working towards fulfilling the criteria for acceptance in PUB MED.

With effect from April 1st, 2003 European Surgery was transferred to **Springer-Verlag Wien New York**. The editorial team has been restructured and includes former Co-Editors Hubert Hauser, Graz (Section Editor for General and Vascular Surgery), Ludwig Ch. Müller, Innsbruck (Section Editor for Cardiothoracic Surgery) and new members: Sebastian Roka, Vienna (Section Editor for Selected Summaries), Gerold Wetscher, Innsbruck (Section Editor for General Surgery, Plastic Surgery), Anton Klingler, Innsbruck (Statistical Advisor) and Franz Martin Riegler, Vienna (Editor in Chief).

In keeping with the new concept, the following changes have been made:

1. In addition to being that of the Austrian Society of Surgery, it is a great honour for us to announce that European Surgery is now the official journal of the Czech and of the Slovenian Societies of Surgery, thus increasing the readership of the journal.
2. The following new sections are now included in the journal: Letters to the Editors and Selected Summaries of recently published "Top Papers".
3. A focus on "up to date" topics: biotechnology (i.e. minimal invasive surgery), perioperative and interdisciplinary management (surgical oncology), "from bench to bedside" (clinical relevance of basic science).
4. Inclusion of a statistical advisor.
5. A more modern layout.

Currently, the journal is not listed in PUB MED, but evaluation of European Surgery for PUB MED is scheduled for 2006. Strategies aimed at fulfilling the criteria for impact factor and acceptance in PUB MED include:

1. Publication of papers with broad citation potential (i.e. reviews on study design and statistical issues in surgical science; description of novel surgical techniques).
2. Citation of papers published in European Surgery in the section "Letters to the Editors" and submitted for publication in "Top Journals".
3. Submission of "study designs" for publication in European Surgery (NOTE: you will receive a free scientific

and statistical review!) and subsequent citation of this paper in a contribution submitted for publication in a "Top Journal".

In line with the appointment of new Editors, the Editorial Board has also been restructured, its members all surgeons with an international reputation and selected according to the following criteria:

1. A readiness to support national and international European Surgery interests (working towards gaining impact factor & listing in PUB MED; submitting high quality contributions).
2. A willingness to improve the scientific quality of the journal by frequent participation in peer reviews.
3. Duration of editorial board membership is performance-related.

On behalf of the Editors and publishers of European Surgery, we would like to express our gratitude to the former members of the Editorial Board for supporting European Surgery over the years.

Furthermore, we wish to thank all members of the Consultant Board for their excellent support and peer review of numerous papers submitted for publication in European Surgery. A list of the members of the Consultant Board will be published in the next issue of the journal.

We are fully aware that a lot of hard work lies ahead of us, but feel confident that with your support and collaboration, dear colleagues, we will meet with success.

Looking forward to a strong, fruitful collaboration,

Yours sincerely,

Franz Martin Riegler
Editor in Chief

Hubert Hauser
Section Editor

Ludwig Ch. Müller
Section Editor

Gerold Wetscher
Section Editor

Sebastian Roka
Section Editor

Anton Klingler
Statistical Advisor