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# Editorial

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Since the Editorial Board of the *World's Poultry Science Journal* was established at the beginning of 1989 it has met on four occasions – during the European Conferences in Barcelona (1990) and Glasgow (1994) and during the World's Poultry Congresses in Amsterdam (1992) and New Delhi (1996). At each meeting there has been discussion on editorial policy and the ways in which the journal might be improved. At the most recent gathering three months ago it is pleasing to be able to report that more than half the members of the Editorial Board took part. While this was in itself a record, the meeting was the most successful held so far.

Of the matters discussed, by far the most important was the extent to which the *WPSJ* should try to satisfy a suggested need for more papers in which there is greater emphasis on the **application** of the results of research. After much debate, the conclusion reached was that the present balance, when assessed over several issues of the journal, was probably about right. The fact that the primary purpose of the journal is the publication of authoritative and comprehensive reviews that focus on science was considered to be a major strength. In this way those concerned with commercial application have the necessary data on which to work. Furthermore, very often there is a diversity of ways in which scientific information can be applied, so that undue emphasis by authors on application rather than underlying science could have an inhibiting effect. The Editorial Board did agree, however, that it could be helpful to include in the Notes for Contributors a reminder that the value of science lies in application as well as understanding and that it is always desirable for authors to keep ultimate application in mind. It was also agreed that scope existed to commission papers to meet identified needs, for example subject areas that have been neglected or topics that seem likely to become important in the future. Should readers wish to express views on this or other matters relating to the journal, letters or faxes are always welcome.

Included in this issue is a report of the XXth World's Poultry Congress in New Delhi during which the Association elected its new President, Mrs Anuradha Desai, and the Citations for those elected to the International Poultry Hall of Fame.

**Chris Hann**