

## A Year's End and an Era's End

For many of us in the communication of science, the end of this year marks the end of an era, for the printed version of *Index Medicus* will cease publication as 2004 departs. In recent years, users—and buyers—have largely abandoned this hefty index to the biomedical literature, using instead PubMed and other Internet-based products containing the database from which it has been generated.<sup>1</sup> Although the tomes will no longer appear, their memory will remain among those of us who began searching the biomedical literature in the decades before use of one's personal computer dominated the process.

The passing of the printed *Index Medicus* seems an appropriate time to thank those at the (US) National Library of Medicine, including CSE members, for producing this resource and the products and services that have superseded it and for providing models for analogous

endeavors. Clearly, those of us in biomedical editing and related fields benefit greatly from these resources. Therefore, on behalf of many of the readers of *Science Editor*, let me take the liberty of saying thanks.

As the year ends, let me also thank those who have contributed to *Science Editor* during 2004. They include our numerous authors, Associate Editor Cheryl Iverson, our contributing editors and columnists, our publication staff, and our editorial board. I especially appreciate the continuing large contributions of Chief Manuscript Editor Norman Grossblatt, Designer Tiffany Inbody, Annual Meeting Editor Ann Morcos, Publication Manager Jane Wiggs, and quality-control ace Roxanne K Young. Special gratitude also goes to Beth Notzon for taking over so well our book-review section. Likewise deserving appreciation for their help are the CSE staff; the CSE webmaster, Seth

Beckerman; our printer, Newman Printing Company, Inc; and Texas A&M University, which houses this publication.

Let me also thank our three interns for 2004: Joshua Harris (January-May), Jamie De Gregory (June-August), and Claudia Clark (September-December). These interns and their predecessors have contributed much to *Science Editor* by serving as staff writers and helping behind the scenes; I hope they have gained valuable experience in return. As 2005 approaches, we look forward to welcoming new intern Tanya Nading.

Of course, we are now working on issues of *Science Editor* for 2005. Space remains, though, in



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the latter issues, and we have begun seeking ideas for 2006 and beyond. If you have suggestions of content—or, better yet, articles to contribute—please let me know. Your contributions will largely determine the quality of *Science Editor* in the years to come.

For now, let me wish you the best this holiday season and in 2005. And as the current year ends, consider bidding an appreciative farewell with me to the printed *Index Medicus*, now ceasing 125 years of publication.

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### Reference

1. *Index Medicus* to cease as print publication. *NLM Tech Bull* 2004 May-Jun(338):e2. [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj04/mj04\\_im.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/mj04/mj04_im.html). Accessed 10 Jul 2004.

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