The Journal of Medical Genetics, 1986

Readers of this issue of the Journal will notice several changes in its contents and form, some obvious, others less so. Two regular review series head the list of changes. ‘Gene Mapping and Clinical Genetics’, which began in 1985 with the X and Y chromosomes, has now moved on to the autosomes, which will be covered systematically (though not in numerical order) over the next two years. This month also sees the first of a new series, ‘Syndrome of the month’, which will give a compact summary of a specific dysmorphic syndrome. This series aims to bridge the gap between original family reports and major syndrome group reviews, both of which will continue to be represented in the Journal.

Readers are particularly asked to note the revised Notice to Contributors and nomenclature notes on the inside cover and page 96, which have been updated to cover new areas. Nonetheless, no potential contributor should feel inhibited about submitting a paper because it does not appear to fit a precise category; originality and quality remain the criteria for assessment.

The least conspicuous change in the Journal is perhaps the most important; each issue is now increased in size, in preparation for monthly publication, which will start in 1987. This will allow a major reduction in publication time and will give a greater flexibility and topicality than is possible with a bimonthly issue. Meanwhile, accelerated publication is already feasible for urgent communications, while the submission to acceptance interval has been substantially reduced.

All Journals must depend on ‘feedback’ from their readers and authors to ensure that they are fulfilling the needs of both groups. The editor will welcome any suggestions for future changes and developments and hopes that those outlined here and reflected in this issue of the Journal will meet with approval.

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