Editorial Announcement

The editorial group of The Journal of Nutrition and the ASNS Publications Management Committee have recently discussed a number of issues that impact the financial health of our Journal. The substantial increase in submissions and resulting increase in the number of published pages in recent years, publication of The Journal of Nutrition online, and the institution of an electronic manuscript handling system are all positive moves for our Journal, but they have resulted in an increase in publication costs. A number of changes in Journal policy that reflect these increased costs have been or will soon be implemented.

The possibility of instituting a manuscript submission fee has been discussed but will not be implemented at this time. This issue may, however, be reconsidered when it becomes possible to handle these fees electronically within our system. There will, however, be an increase in the current page charge. A major review of Journal of Nutrition finances in 1992 recommended that the costs of redactory, composition, printing, and binding The Journal ($120/page at that time) be split between the authors and the publisher. Although production costs have increased each year, this $60/page charge has remained constant for a decade. The editorial group of The Journal of Nutrition is of the opinion that the length of many of the manuscripts published in our Journal could be substantially decreased with no loss in value to the reader. In line with the increased publication costs and an attempt to encourage more concisely written manuscripts, effective with papers published in the April 2003 issue, the page charge will increase to $70/page for the first six pages and $120/page for all pages over six.

A number of other changes in Journal operation have also been approved. The print version of the Guide for Authors will no longer be published in the January issue of The Journal. Rather, it will be available online at The Journal's website (www.nutrition.org) and at The Journal's manuscript processing system website. This will allow changes in our instructions to authors to be made during the year rather than only at the start of a new year. The previously published yearly author and subject indices will be discontinued beginning with the 2003 volume of The Journal. Most journals no longer publish these indices, and the ease of online author and subject searches of the literature greatly diminishes their value to our subscribers. These changes have been made in an effort to maintain our ability to provide the members of the ASNS and the broader nutrition community a quality journal in which to publish their research efforts without imposing an arbitrary limit on the number of papers we publish each year. The Associate Editors and publications staff appreciate the efforts of our membership in support of The Journal of Nutrition and look forward to continuing to serve them.

J. W. Suttie
Editor
The Journal of Nutrition