The current issue is divided into three components, with the first being an editorial titled: Towards Greater International Exposure for the Annals of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine. The second part comprises Professor John Pearn’s 2008 Copeman Oration for the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine, titled: Lines in the Sand: Research, Bioethics and the Reduction of Mortality in the Developing World. The final part contains selected conference abstracts from the 17th Annual Scientific Meeting of the ACTM / Asia-Pacific International Conference on Travel Medicine (APICTM) which was held on 24-27 February 2008 at the Crown Promenade Hotel in Melbourne. We trust that this issue of the Annals is both interesting and informative for readers.

References

I wish to welcome the new Editor-in-Chief of the Annals of the ACTM and it is with great pleasure that I accept the role of Inaugural Executive Editor of the Annals. I believe there are some exciting times ahead for the Annals of the ACTM following its humble beginnings nearly 10 volumes ago with the production of the first Volume of the Annals, a monograph which I edited in 1995 documenting the Inaugural Ashdown Oration and Convocation. The Annals has now moved firmly into the realms of a journal publication, which encompasses the broader missions of the College in the core areas of tropical and travel medicine, but also in the emerging areas of disaster health, medical parasitology and zoonoses, and toxoinology, which are currently represented by Standing Committees of the College. In 2002, the Annals took shape under the distinguished leadership of Professor John Goldsmid as an A4-sized journal with an upgrade in 2007 to its current format.

Executive Editors together with the Editor-in-Chief will generally be responsible for the final content of the publication as well as undertaking the initial editorial screening of submissions and assisting the Editorial Advisory Board and Associate Editors in the evaluation of reviewers’ recommendations for publication in the Annals. Executive Editors will advise the Editor-in-Chief on publication standards and budget as well as strategic and operational planning of the Annals. It is also expected that as further Executive Editors are appointed these positions may be responsible for special projects, such as supplements and special issues, as well as managing journal departments, usually by publication type or by region.

In this sense, the appointment of Executive Editors is an exciting one for the Annals, as we seek to give more responsibility for and ownership of our journal to our members. Together with the Editor-in-Chief, we will continue to work towards ensuring we meet the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE ANNALS