It is hard to believe that we are now entering our fourth year of publication of the International Journal of Stroke and are now established as the global journal for stroke, with an Impact Factor and Medline listing. We have evolved from a purely review-based journal to now accepting a limited number of high-quality original research contributions; this edition is no exception. Lovelock et al., explore the proportion of minor strokes due to intracerebral hemorrhage and show that they were very similar in both population- and hospital-based cohorts. This emphasizes the need to image early with CT to avoid misdiagnosis and thus inappropriate management. The second is a novel randomized-controlled trial showing that a minimally invasive cranipuncture compared with conservative treatment may improve outcomes of patients with small basal ganglionic hemorrhage. Clearly, this technique represents a considerable advance in the field and needs to be confirmed in other populations.

Another high-profile contribution in this edition published concurrently in Stroke and the Journal of Cerebral Blood and Metabolism is the contribution by Howells et al. Spurred by the failures of translation of neuroprotection from bench to bedside, they have suggested a series of standards of reporting for research involving stroke experimental models similar to the CONSORT statement for the reporting of clinical trials. The acceptance of universal standards such as these has been long overdue and will enhance translational research generally.

There are also some excellent Leading Opinions on current issues such as the ECASS III results, in which the time window for thrombolysis was extended for the first time since 1995. Our Clinical Trial Protocol section continues with the interesting CHIMES study, and our Panorama section continues with overviews of stroke in Laos and Brazil.

We have been gratified with the extraordinary volume of submission of reviews and original articles, so much so that we have decided to expand the number of editions from four to six per year to cope with the influx.

We hope that this will make the journal even more readable and responsive to the everchanging world of stroke.

The World Stroke Congress in Vienna was an outstanding success, with numerous expert contributions in plenary lectures, teaching programs and original research. The Congress Chair Michael Brainin, Chair of the Scientific Committee Werner Hacke and Co-Chair of the Education Committee Michael Hennercci should all be congratulated for producing one of the best congresses ever.

While there were numerous highlights, the data produced by the ECASS III investigators extending the time window for thrombolytic therapy were exceptional.

You will have noticed an increased number of supplements to the journal with abstracts from WSC as well as its satellite TAST meeting. We encourage organizers of meetings around the globe to publish abstract supplements in our journal to provide a single source of stroke information for stroke care professionals. Similarly, we wish to offer you the opportunity to send through your meeting details to our conference diary.

Finally, the journal is heavily indebted to the hard-working numerous individuals who work as Associate Editors, Editorial Board Members and reviewers. We would like to thank our reviewers for their hard work this year. Those who have contributed to our review process during 2008 are as follows: Zahoor Aham Shah; Harold Adams; Adria Arboix; Abdul Ahmad; Clarie Allen; Craig Anderson; Andrei Alexandrov; Aroldo Bacellar; Jean-Claude Baron, Philip Bath; Christopher Bladin; Natan Bornstein; Michael Brainin; Ruth Bonita; John Bamford; Margaret Bird; Valerie Biousse; Alastair Buchan; Kenneth Butcher; Marie-Germaine Bousser; Jose Castillo; Brian Chambers; Christopher Chen; Laszlo Csiba; Antonio Culebras; Tim Cloughesy; Lawrence Cher; Rob Carter; Angel Chamorro; Shelagh Coult; Dominique Cadhilas; Alvaro Cervera; Leeanne Carey; Livia Candelise; Antonio Davalos; Stephen Davis; Helen Dewey; Exupiero Díez Tejedor; Ulrich Dirnagl; Bruce Dobkin; Praful Dalal; Tony Denelli; Martin Dennis; Sanne Dorhout Mees; Gabrielle de Verber; Paul Dorman; Jacques DeReuck; Andrew Demchuck; Don Easton; Anwar Ertibi; Conrado Estol; Fiona Ellery; Mitchell Elkind; Tim England, Antonio Falcao, Anthony Furlan; Gavin Fabinyi; Jose Ferro; Nancy Futrell; Farzad Fatehi; John Fink; Bo Norrving; James Grotta; Amanda Gilligan; Larry Goldstein; Graff-Iversen; Richard Gerraty; Werner Hacke; Graeme Hankey; Daniel Hanley; Robert Hart; Wolf-Dieter Heiss; Antoine Hakim; Marc Hommel; David Howells; Michael Hill; Peter Hand; Bent Indredavik; Tim Ingall; Caroline Jackson; Elizabeth Jones; Markku Kaste; J. S. Kim; Simon Koblar; Lalit Kalra; Y. Kiyohara; Z. Khan; Alexander Kunz; Peter Langhorne; Ken Lees; Christopher Levi; Ming Liu; Xin-Feng Liu; Patrick Lyden; David Liebeskind; Jean Luis; Didier Leys; Richard Lindley; J. Lodder; Eline Lindeman; Thomas Linden; John Marler; Artyon Massaro; Henrich Mattle; Marco Medina; Shanthi Mendis; Patrik Michel; Kazuo Minematsu; J. P. Mohr;