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EDITORIAL

In 1976, a brief questionnaire was circulated to the members of the International Society of Lymphology seeking information regarding the attitudes of the members towards the official Journal of the Society, *Lymphology*. Of the 400 questionnaires mailed to the active members, 101 were returned by November, 1976, and form the basis for the following short report.

Approximately 40% read all, or almost all, papers published in *Lymphology*; 39% read all, or almost all, clinical papers; 15% read all, or almost all, laboratory papers; and 6% read usually no papers. Approximately 47% felt that the balance between clinical and laboratory papers was fine; 12% felt there were too many clinical articles, whereas 33% believed there were too many laboratory articles; and 8% did not respond.

Approximately 70% felt the size of the Journal was fine, the remainder feeling the Journal was too small. However, only 47% stated their willingness to support an increase in size by paying more for subscription rates, as compared to 36% who felt contrary-wise, and 17% who did not respond.

Impressions regarding the overall quality of the published articles were as follows (for the clinical and basic science papers, respectively): above average, 17% and 26%; average, 63%

and 43%; below average, 10% and 5%; and, can't evaluate, 7% and 16%, with no comments from 3% and 10%.

Fifty-eight percent of the responders believe that *Lymphology* should be continued as is; whereas 22% suggested considering merger with another society journal or journals, which might have similar, parallel interests; and 7% recommended discontinuation of publication (which probably would decrease ISL dues). Thirteen percent did not respond to this final question.

Although the above responses are open to numerous interpretations, I have tentatively concluded that: a) most of the responding members find the Journal to be satisfactory, although perhaps they feel more clinical articles could be included; b) that most find the quality of the articles to be average or above average; and c) that there is some indication that an increase in size should be considered, although this means increasing the subscription rates. There appears to be very little interest in discontinuing the publication of the Journal. Interestingly, there appears to be some interest to consider merging the Journal with another scientific publication, although the majority of the members believe that the Journal should continue as is.

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