

News from the Editorial Board : 1997 was a good year for the ACTA ...

The Editorial Board of the ACTA wishes you a happy and fruitful 1998 year.

The future of the ACTA is of great concern for the Editorial Board but future is just will and wish but not yet reality. Past is reality and for the ACTA, 1997 was an important step.

A year ago, in an editorial published under similar circumstances, we expressed the wish to see other scientific societies or groups interested in the field of hepato-gastroenterology to join the Société Royale Belge de Gastro-entérologie in the daily life of the ACTA. The progresses on this path were faster than expected and today, no less than 3 groups participate in the publication process of the ACTA : The Belgian Association for Study of the Liver (BASL), the Belgian IBD Research Group and the Belgian Group of Pediatric Gastroenterologists and Nutritionists (G.B.P.G.N. - B.G.P.G.N.) with Prof. P. Michielsen, M. De Vos and E. Sokal as associate editors, respectively. A chart was created, laying down the rules of this collaboration. In the future, this will result in the publication of the symposia organized under the aegis of these groups in the ACTA. This was already the case with the publication of the symposium organized in Ghent, april 1997 by the Belgian IBD Research Group (60 (2), 142-163, 1997). Others will follow. In a next future, we hope that the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Gastroenterologie will also be actively involved in the life of the ACTA.

Another good news from 1997 was a significant progress in the submission of manuscripts processed following the peer review (original articles, case reports, reviews). The number has almost increased twofold (see table). For the ACTA, it is vital that the future confirms this trend.

	1996	1997
Original articles	12	19
Case reports	6	15
Reviews	4	9

Finally, in 1997, we carried out an inquiry about the specialities of everybody interested in the field of hepato-gastroenterology and we asked for candidature in order to extend the number of dedicated reviewers. We received 72 answers ! Thus far, we take the opportunity to express our profound gratitude to these reviewers who made a superb job for the ACTA despite their very busy activity.

J. Henrion, O. Le Moine.