



The third time's a charm!

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It is with a great deal of pride that I am able to announce to *CJRM*'s readership and to its authors, current and future, that as of Vol. 9, No. 1, (2004) this journal has been selected by the National Library of Medicine / National Institutes of Health for indexation and inclusion in *Index Medicus* and MEDLINE. It was the third try, but who's counting?

What does this mean? It means that instead of being easily available to only the 5000 physicians on our mailing list, material published in *CJRM* is now available to the world! This status is both a major opportunity and a great responsibility. It is an opportunity because *CJRM* will be increasingly able

principles of rural medicine recognized as credible in Canada and around the world. This development confirms their importance and their relevance to rural practice anywhere, and the SRPC should justly feel proud of this recognition and draw strength from it.

What will this mean for *CJRM*? It is difficult to say for sure, but as there are very few other rural medical journals in the world, this change in status has the potential to have dramatic consequences. To my knowledge there is only one other rural journal in the United States, one in Australia, and one exclusively published electronically. Set against this is the fact that perhaps close to 50% of the world's population is rural! Although Canada is blessed by large rural spaces, it has a relatively small population, and the number of rural researchers is proportional to this population. As we become better known internationally it is inevitable that we will be sought as a vehicle to publish research from beyond our borders, and conversely, to become increasingly sensitive to the fact that our published papers will be read internationally.

So, interesting times are ahead — for *CJRM* for sure, hopefully also for the rural research community and, lastly, (or more properly “firstly”) for the rural communities on whose behalf this journal is published.

Raise a glass wherever you are, of “Blue,” of “bitter,” of “schnapps” or of “grappa” . . . a toast to rural!

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to position itself as the premier source for rural health publication. With that will come an increased responsibility because we will have to manage not only the expected increase in future submissions, but of course their quality, with all that that implies with respect to the need for more reviewers, and the need to find more editorial hours.

The credit, however, goes to those rural physicians who have fought since the creation of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada to have the prin-