

Page Charges Postponed

In response to the continued increasing interest in sleep and sleep disorders within the medical and research communities as well as the public, the journal *SLEEP* has positioned itself as the leading source of current sleep-related research.

The purpose of the journal *SLEEP* has always been to publish the best research available in sleep science and sleep medicine; it has never been treated as a revenue-generating source for the SRS or the AASM. Currently, the journal is supported solely by restricted advertising revenue and societal investment. The APSS Board of Directors determined last spring that the development of additional revenue sources was necessary to continue publishing high quality research and maintain the journal's standard of excellence. At the time this decision was made, the journal *SLEEP* had projected losses of \$127,000 for 2003, estimated on a revenue stream of \$650,000. Because membership in the societies includes a subscription to the journal at no additional cost, deficits must be closed by direct contributions from the SRS and the AASM.

The APSS Board of Directors considered several revenue-generating alternatives, including commercially supported supplemental issues, over-the-counter sleep-related product advertising, Web-based advertising, single article subscription via the Internet, and page charges. The APSS Board of Directors felt that page charges presented the least dramatic philosophical shift in *SLEEP* policy. After considering the alternatives, the Board of Directors elected to implement page charges to offset the growing deficit associated with publishing the journal. This new policy, which would expense authors of manuscripts selected for publication \$60 per page, was scheduled to affect manuscripts submitted after December 1, 2003.

The APSS Board of Directors, however, has delayed the implementation of this policy until further notice. This delay became possible because of several unanticipated cost cutting measures and other revenue enhancements. For example, the Editor's office budget was voluntarily reduced by \$30,000 – these costs, which would normally have been offset by the journal, have been assumed by the Editor. In addition, there was an unexpected sale of reprints totaling roughly \$50,000, and a reduction of staff-associated expenses of approximately \$40,000. The remaining difference was made up in advertising revenue and subscription sales. At this time it is unclear if these savings will continue to be realized into 2004 and beyond. In consideration of these recent developments, the APSS Board of Directors will meet in February to review the financial status of the journal and will report their review and decisions regarding future funding of journal costs to the subscribers of *SLEEP*.

Thank you for your continued support of the journal *SLEEP*.

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