

Thoracic Society was founded in 1992 with aims of reorganising Turkish chest physicians similar to ATS and ERS, improving quality of chest physician training and standartization in Turkey, guiding Turkish physicians in therapy of chest diseases and finally protecting the rights of Turkish chest physicians. This resulted in 7 local chapters and 14 study groups. Thoracic Society now has 1238 members, majority of which are chest physicians, other members are chest surgeons, critical care physicians, physical therapists, pathologists and physiologists. So far three national congresses and three educational meetings were organised. Last meeting was in Antalya in April 2000 and it was the most successful meeting related to respiratory disases in Turkey so far, with more than 1200 registrations and very powerfull international contribution. After Turkish parliaments approval in the near future, the name of the organisation will be changed to Turkish Thoracic Society.

Turkish Respiratory Journal is one of the official publications of Thoracic Society. It aims to publish original studies completed in Turkey which we believe are between 200-300 in a year. About 150 of these studies are presented in international meetings and most of them are publisher in several good quality thoracic journals published in Turkish. Unfortunately few people outside Turkey can understand them and they are not listed in international indexes. Number of international publications from Turkey's chest physicians are relatively low. We hope this new journal which is in English will stimulate Turkish thoracic physicians to write their studies in English and as the Journal improves we believe it will be listed in index medicus and science citation index.

We wish to thank all our reviewers who were prompt and diligent, Journal's biostatistics Ass. Prof. Nural Bekiroğlu, who went through biostatistics of all studies submitted, Ayşe Karabece, our publisher, who was very professional and finally Seval Acar, Turkish Respiratroy Journals secretary, who enthusiastically received all articles, organised them, send them to referees and overcome all other communications problems in a very experienced way. We believe this Journal will achieve its aims with all this highly motivated people working for the success of it.

Turgay Çelikel  
Ülkü Bayındır