

# EDITORIAL

## THE VANCOUVER STYLE

Twelve years ago it was reported that a medical secretary in Seattle complained to several American editors of having to retype bibliographic references each time her boss had to revise a rejected manuscript to prepare it for submission to another journal. The wheels of bureaucracy started to turn but slowly and it was only in January 1978 that a number of North American and English editors and experts in medical writing meeting in Vancouver, B.C. reached a consensus. Thus the Vancouver style as defined by their reference to the "uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journal" was born.

By the end of 1979 about 100 journals have agreed to accept manuscripts submitted in accordance with this style(1). Discerning readers will see at once the advantages of such a common approach. The Annals of Academy of Medicine, Singapore, has already adopted this new format. The Singapore Medical Journal hopes to change over to this new system entirely in 1981. Con-

tributors are therefore requested to send in their manuscripts according to the changed style from now onwards.

Kindly consult the Editorial Notice for details. Interested readers are requested to refer to the following:-

International Steering Committee. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals:  
Ann Intern Med 1979; 90: 95-99.

International Steering Committee. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals:  
Br Med J 1979; 1: 532-535.

International Steering Committee. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals:  
Lancet 1979; 1: 428-431.

The Editorial Board welcome your comments.

<sup>1</sup>Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. List of participating journals. Brit Med J 1980; 1: 23.

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