

## CHANGE OF GUARD

After serving as Editor of Pramana for three years, the undersigned will soon relinquish that responsibility. Starting with the next volume this journal will come out under a new editorial group.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Indian physics community for the sustained support they have given us in running this journal, both as contributors and as referees. We have continued to receive a couple of hundred manuscripts every year, many of which could easily have found a home in the best of international journals.

Our unpaid and anonymous referees deserve particular thanks. These experts have devoted several days, if not weeks, of their time to examining the work of others, in return for no fee or public credit. In an age when hefty fees are charged for most forms of technical consultancy and advice, the selfless service of referees must be explicitly acknowledged and not taken for granted.

The referee system of its journals is an important component of peer group evaluation within any scientific community. We are very happy to report that by and large the comments of Pramana referees were frank (regardless of who the author was) and constructive. The authors, in turn, have responded positively to our exhortation that they address each of the referee's criticisms and suggestions in their rebuttals and revisions. Of those articles that eventually got published, most went through a round of revision in response to the referee's comments and, we believe, were the better for it. In the whole process of exchanges between authors, referees and editor, there has been very little acrimony, despite the fact that more than a third of the contributions had to be rejected. All this speaks well for our physics community, and has been the most heartening aspect of the editor's work.

We wish the next editor and his editorial group every success in strengthening Pramana further.

R. RAJARAMAN