EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR MANUSCRIPTS (VANCOUVER STYLE)

From the beginning of 1989, our Instructions to Authors printed inside the back cover, and Advice to Contributors printed in the first issue of the year, have indicated that manuscripts should be submitted in the “uniform (Vancouver) style”. Since the proposals for a set of uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals were made by an international group of editors in Vancouver in 1982,¹ there has been increasing pressure for all journals in the biomedical field to adopt the proposed Vancouver style. The editorial boards of a significant proportion of journals based in the United Kingdom, including the *Journal of Medical Microbiology*, were initially resistant. However, after considerable discussion and deliberation, it has become clear that the Vancouver style is now firmly established internationally as the generally accepted format and is preferred by a majority of contributors. As the aim of the *Journal of Medical Microbiology* is to publish the best research papers produced in the English language, we should not discourage authors by asking them to prepare papers in a format different from that of most other journals. Furthermore, the numerical reference citation system is essential for the full implementation of electronic searching and abstracting systems now coming on stream in many libraries. These considerations have persuaded us that the time is right for the *Journal of Medical Microbiology* to adopt the Vancouver style. It is our intention that most papers published from the beginning of 1990 will be in this format. Inevitably there will be a period of overlap with papers appearing in either format, but we aim to keep this period as short as possible. Occasional papers will appear in the new style, as examples, from July 1989 and the main change will be from January 1990.

Brian I. Duerden,
Chairman, Editorial Board.

1. *Br Med J* 1988; **296**: 401–405.