Discharge and Farewell

International scientific journals are like ships. The goods they carry to the harbors of subscribers are of great value to their readers. Issues are separate shipments delivered according to a set timetable. Publishers are the shipowners and editorial teams represent the crew.

Having served as the captain of the good ship *Community Genetics* for over 10 years I felt it was time to step down. My discharge coincides with the decision of the publisher to change the name of the vessel to *Public Health Genomics*. New editors-in-charge were recruited. Some members of the old crew signed on again, others wanted to be excused. What else can I do other than to wish the new crew a safe journey?

Well of course I should, but also want to sincerely thank all those who have contributed so much to the success of *Community Genetics*. On the one hand, there are the publisher for taking the risk of launching a new journal, the associate editors for their indispensable help in making decisions on acceptance and revisions, the editorial board for monitoring our work and for valuable new ideas and the staff of the editorial office for their continuous support, and on the other hand the many authors

for their trust in the journal, which was expressed by submitting hundreds of interesting manuscripts, and the reviewers in even greater numbers, who advised the editorial team and the authors equally and contributed so much to improvements in manuscripts and therefore of the journal. Many, many thanks to all!

Captains and crews of ships run the risk of developing deep feelings of attachment to a vessel and its name. I must admit I am no exception to this rule, especially as *Community Genetics* is not just a name but a unique concept, which has its own place besides clinical genetics and public health genetics or genomics, for instance. My initial worry that disappearance of the name would also signify the sinking of the good idea has diminished. In a year, over 300 scientists and other workers in the field of community genetics have joined the international multidisciplinary community genetics e-mail network. For information or to join the network send a message to commgennet@gmail.com. We may be sinking indeed, not as a wreck, but as a submarine and destined to surface somewhere else.

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