Editorial

The morphological sciences are in a process of transition. At a time when molecular biology revolutionizes cell and developmental biology and modern methods of imaging give a new impetus to clinical anatomy, we feel that not less but better morphology is needed, morphology that focusses on functional aspects of form and morphogenesis.

With the first issues of volume 146 of Acta Anatomica a largely new Editorial Board and new Editors-in-Chief will aim at giving this Journal new energy in the directions indicated. Acta Anatomica will emphasize modern aspects of functional morphology on all levels of organization, from the molecular over the cellular to the organismic, focussing on vertebrates, in particular on mammals and humans. While we anticipate an explosion of new knowledge in the area of morphogenesis and we will put special emphasis on this field, we plan to keep in the scope of the Journal broad. One of the main characteristics of living systems, that of their regulative capacities, is indeed observed at all levels of organization, and we are convinced that everyone of us can gain a lot from 'looking over the fence' in order to see how the same or a similar functional problem may be solved in another system or at another level. What directs the hierarchy of events that lead to pattern formation? What selects the sets of transcription factors, what regulates the regulatory genes? What is the cellular basis, and what are the functional consequences of changes in morphological organization seen at the macroscopic level? How can the limits of regulative processes be defined on the basis of the underlying mechanisms? We want Acta Anatomica to be a forum for these kinds of questions.

We encourage all those of you who are open to innovative ideas along these lines in the fields of functional morphology – be it at the molecular, the cellular or the organismic level of organization – to submit your best work to this forum of communication. The editorial policy and the style of papers have been changed in several respects, so please consult the Instructions to Authors for details. Quality is the only criterion for acceptance of a manuscript. There will be a timely but rigorous process of reviewing. The high quality of reproduction of illustrations for which Acta Anatomica is well known will be maintained, production time will be minimized. The number of free pages has been increased. As a special introductory incentive, there will be no page charges for 1 year from now on. We will be happy to hear from you about any further suggestions that you may have. The Editorial Board and the Editors-in-Chief are at your service and are willing to do their best in order to make this one of your favoured morphological journals.

H.-W. Denker A.W. English

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