Further Section

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Editorial

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With this number, the journal starts its 30th volume, and the 2nd year with its new name, *Journal of Vascular Research*, and ourselves as editors.

On assuming the editorship, we, together with the editorial board, set the goals that the *Journal of Vascular Research* should be broad in its coverage of vascular science, but selective in publishing only articles which met the criteria of 'scientific excellence and novelty'. The latter goal in particular was ambitious: a journal can only exist if it publishes papers, and authors need to have confidence in a journal before they submit their best manuscripts to it. At that stage, however, we were encouraged by the positive signals we received from many colleagues in the field of vascular science, and now a year later, we feel that the expectation was justified. We trust that the readers of the *Journal of Vascular Research* are in agreement with our

editorial board, our other referees and ourselves that the manuscripts which have been accepted by the *Journal of Vascular Research* did indeed meet the goals we have set.

On the other hand, readers are also authors, and we are sure that a number of those whose manuscripts were not accepted will have felt frustration. Particularly since a large proportion of those which were not accepted were 'technically acceptable', i.e. the manuscripts were scientifically correct, or could easily be made so. However, in many cases the review process indicated that despite technical acceptability, the criteria of 'scientific excellence and novelty' were not met. Perhaps the report was well documented, but was thought unremarkable. Alternatively, the report was potentially interesting, but it was considered that more experiments were needed to substantiate it. Another common concern was that a report was alone phenomenological, with insufficient attempt to understand the mechanisms involved. For those who have had manuscripts in this category, it may be of comfort to know that less than 25% of submitted manuscripts have been accepted.

Fortunately for the journal, sufficient manuscripts have been submitted which have passed the referees' stringent assessment; the 1992 pages have been filled with what we believe are good papers, and many of the 1993 pages are already allocated. Other potentially good manuscripts are with the authors for revision. Furthermore, there has been an encouraging trend towards broadening the base of the journal to include vascular biology. We therefore start this 30th volume of the journal confident that there is indeed a need for a select journal in vascular science. We sincerely hope that we can continue to rely on the insistence of readers, reviewers, editorial board and authors alike that we should maintain our aim to make the *Journal of Vascular Research* a leading journal in the field of vascular science.