Editorial

M.B.

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Endocrinology today is a multifaceted field marked by exceptionally dynamic development. It was basic research in endocrinology – particularly on hormonal signal transduction and molecular genetic mechanisms conducted over the last few years – that has deepened our understanding of various biological processes. At the same time, our view of the hormonal network, which is, fundamentally, a biological communication system, has expanded, and it is now considered to be interconnected with the two other major systems, namely, the nervous and the immunological system. This knowledge has led to new dimensions in understanding and treating endocrine disorders. The accumulation of diverse information on which fundamental research is based, however, inevitably poses the problem of communication and mutual exchange of knowledge.

‘Hormone Research’ (originally titled ‘Hormones’) was conceived in 1970 by Professor M. Morois with the aim of serving the endocrinological community by offering a forum for the exchange of scientific knowledge and experience. Professor J. Girard succeeded Professor Morois in 1976 and, during his term as Editor-in-Chief, the journal gained international repute as a scientific publication devoted to experimental and clinical endocrinology. His special emphasis on paediatric endocrinology led to ‘Hormone Research’ becoming the official organ of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE). Taking over the reins from Professor Girard entails taking over the commitment to keep the standards set by him. My efforts as the new Editor-in-Chief will mainly be dedicated towards holding up the reputation of ‘Hormone Research’ as an outlet for wide-ranging, innovative and outstanding original publications emerging from fundamental and clinical research. Apart from this, I would also like ‘Hormone Research’ to develop into a journal which – in allusion to the endocrinological communication system – serves as a mediator for information, discussion and interaction, from which new impulses are certain to arise. The entire Editorial Board, along with the associate editors, P. Mullis and J.S. Parks, and myself, hope that ‘Hormone Research’ will continue to thrive from its on-going dialogue with endocrinologists.

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