A Word from the Editors

The editors of *Digestion* are happy to inform you that the journal continued to gain popularity in 2008 with an increase of 10% submitted papers compared to 2007. This has translated in an improved Impact Factor, which is now at 2.097. We are eager to continue to enhance the profile of the journal. We perceive that readers are interested in getting excellent new research results, but at the same time want to enhance their clinical practice with evidence-based approaches.

In 2008, we were able to serve authors by making fast decisions. This was possible by the efforts of an engaged group of Associate Editors who have done a tremendous job in recent years: Nadir Arber, Gerd Kullak-Ublick, Pierre Michetti and Jan Tack left the team at the end of 2008. We would like to take the opportunity to thank them for all their work and input into the journal, needless to say that the journal would not have flourished in the same way without their support. Many personal thanks from the Editorial Board and all the best for the future.

We are delighted to announce that Michel Delvaux, Frank Kolligs, Gerhard Rogler and Christian Rust have joined the editorial team of *Digestion* as new Associate Editors. They will be responsible for motility and neurogastroenterology, GI oncology, inflammatory bowel disease, and liver and biliary diseases, respectively. They have already started to work for the journal and we are glad to have their support. We have no doubt that their clinical and scientific experience will add not only to the quality of *Digestion*, but also ensure that we continue to raise our standards. We are happy that Roland Schmid, Yasuhisa Shinomura and Koji Takeuchi will continue to serve as Associate Editors, covering the following areas: pancreatic diseases, diseases of the upper gut and pharmacology, respectively.

Finally a big thank you to our Reviewers. We attempt to get a first decision within a few weeks. After a paper is accepted, the article appears online within a few days, and shortly thereafter on PubMed; the print editions of the journal are available after a couple of months.

Thank you for your support of *Digestion*, and very best wishes for 2009.

Christoph Beglinger, Basel, December 2008
Burkhard Göke, Munich, December 2008