Message from the Editor

When *Cerebrovascular Diseases* was founded in 1991 the first volume (4 issues) included 59 articles, and was not listed in Medline as is usual for a new journal. Nevertheless, both editors, the 12 members of the Editorial Board and the 23 members of the Advisory Board were strongly convinced that because of the expanding areas of research in cerebrovascular sciences, a journal for original works on all clinical aspects related to stroke was needed. In the meantime, the number of editors and members of the Editorial Board has increased considerably and they prepare monthly issues in two volumes per year (189 articles in 2008), with regular supplements, including those of the European Stroke Conference (ESC), the European Society of Neurosonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics (ESNCH) and communications from the recently founded European Stroke Organisation (ESO), e.g. covering regular guidelines for stroke management. Today all volumes published since 1991 are accessible online, as are the top ten articles selected monthly, and include articles from all specialities of stroke research, such as neurology, internal medicine, surgery, radiology, epidemiology, cardiology, hematology, psychology and rehabilitation.

As recently agreed upon during the Editorial Board Meeting at the 17th European Stroke Conference in Nice, the journal will increasingly publish work of basic stroke research: this is different from the 1990s when clinical research had only a limited forum for international communications. Fortunately, the European Union (EU) has considerably increased its support for translational stroke research in 2008 and the leading European stroke journal *Cerebrovascular Diseases* will follow this path. Recognition of the still few effective therapies for acute and preventive measures in stroke patients, contrary to promising experimental results, demands a thorough re-evaluation of the pathobiology of ischemic brain injury and its relevance for human strokes, taking into consideration recent clinical trial results. For this purpose, already in 2005 during the ESC in Bologna, scientists highlighted the need for European cooperation [*Cerebrovasc Dis* 2006;22:75–82] and were finally successful to start the stroke research project EUROPEAN STROKE NETWORK (www.europeanstrokennetwork.eu) funded by the European Union. Stephen Meairs, Mannheim, co-coordinator of the EUROPEAN STROKE NETWORK has agreed to act as Associate Co-Editor for translational research. Lorenz Hirt from Lausanne will serve as Associate Co-Editor to promote exchange of knowledge and solicit excellent examples of translational stroke research with regular reviews, original papers, short reports of work in progress and controversies. We all welcome proposals in this new field to be communicated through the publisher’s office, which will of course be subjected to peer review before acceptance for publication.

Although it has strong roots in Europe, *Cerebrovascular Diseases* has been an international journal since its foundation, as is true for the ESC, which was attended in Nice by scientists from 82 countries from all over the world [J.P. Mohr’s Report of the 17th ESC, Nice; *Cerebrovasc Dis* 2008;26:335–337]. Thus, most of the contributions to our journal still come from Europe, but contributions from North America, Australasia and Japan are...
greatly increasing. This is why J.P. Mohr from New York, Steve Davis from Melbourne and Y. Shinohara from Tokyo support the European Editor-in-Chief with excellent teamwork, in a mutual exchange of ideas and with great commitment.

We all welcome your interest and support for the journal and would be pleased to communicate with you whenever you feel it necessary to contact the editors. We also appreciate the permanent and consistent support of members of the Editorial Board and the large number of Ad Hoc Reviewers listed on this and the next pages. We are grateful for the Publisher's continuous support of the journal since 1991, in particular Dr. h.c. Thomas Karger, Gabriella Karger and the team of Cerebrovascular Diseases. Without all their support it would not have been possible to have a steadily increasing impact factor, reflecting excellence of research, and the worldwide distribution could not be extended to readers on all five continents. Issues translated into Japanese and Spanish also mirror our attempts to facilitate reading and communication beyond translations of single papers such as the recommendations of stroke treatment 2008 translated into many languages.

Michael G. Hennerici, Mannheim