W. Holzgreve

Basel, Switzerland

Thank You to the 'Helpers on the Right Track'

During the first quarter of a new year, when all the hard figures of the annual statistics are finally in, it is always a good time to look back at the developments of the past year, but above all to thank those who have volunteered their time and expertise to our journal *Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy*.

Over the last year a lot has been achieved, and the readers will not only appreciate the new cover of the journal, but especially the bigger format which translates into 1/3 more printed material equivalent to 20% more pages. This substantial increase in size was needed because of the many excellent manuscripts which the journal is receiving. We wish to guarantee our authors that their papers, once accepted, will be in press very soon thereafter, because we are all aware of the importance of presenting our new findings to our critical peers as soon as possible after a manuscript has been accepted by a jury of selected referees (reviewers) and the editors.

As the Executive Editor-in-Chief, I would like to thank S. Karger Publishers in Basel very much for the joint effort in being as fast and efficient as possible. We are sure that our authors feel the excellent cooperation that exists between the editorial office at the University of Basel and the publisher in the same city. Basel, with its special location in between three countries and due to its cosmopolitan atmosphere, is an ideal place to edit an international journal. Our Editors-in-Chief from four continents, who unfortunately also have the burden of rejecting papers based on the reviewers' comments, have taken great care in suggesting specific revisions which have often made papers finally acceptable. I owe them and our excellent Editorial Board immense gratitude. During the last year a few new Editorial Board Members were recruited for a 3-year term, because some former members of the Editorial Board were no longer able to spend enough time on the journal. The positions of our active friends who provide a lot of time, loyalty and hard work for *Fetal Diagnosis*

sis and Therapy, have been renewed. The Editorial Board met at the annual 'Fetus as a Patient' meeting as well as at the meeting of the 'International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society' which took place in Basel and Alaska, respectively. There will also be excellent chances for getting together at the next IFMSS meeting in Australia in October as well as at the 'Fetus as a Patient' meeting in Amsterdam in May 1998.

How can the success of a journal be measured? There is no objective and ideal criterium to do so, but among all the parameters certainly one of the 'least inappropriate' is the annual impact index ranking which is provided by the Institute of Scientific Information in Philadelphia. We are happy to report that *Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy* has

moved up more than 10 positions in the annual SCI ranking in 1996 compared to the previous year and we will work hard to increase this trend.

Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy is one of the leading journals in the field of genetic disorders and fetal anomalies, and the active treatment thereof. We have tried to have an equal share of experimental and clinical studies directed towards the delineation of normal and disordered fetal physiology and especially antenatal therapy. This spectrum is very broad and deals not only with medical questions, but also with complex ethical issues. With all the exciting developments in genetics and invasive as well as

noninvasive pregnancy surveillance practices, and especially in the areas of stem cell and genetic therapy, the need for a journal which deals exclusively with these issues will be even more obvious in the future.

Because there is no institution of authority that has the exclusive wisdom to judge the merit of a submitted manuscript, the quality of a journal very much depends on the hard work of excellent reviewers. Since all of these reviewers have worked on a voluntary basis for *Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy* the publication of their names is only a small token of appreciation for their excellent work. Let's keep up the good work!

Acknowledgment of ad-hoc referees in 1997

Arabin, B., Zwolle, The Netherlands
 Audibert, F., Paris, France
 Audry, G., Paris, France
 Bang, J., Copenhagen, Denmark
 Belfort, M.A., Houston, Tex., USA
 Benacerraf, B., Boston, Mass., USA
 Bensman, A., Paris, France
 Benzacken, B., Paris, France
 Berry, S., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Biedermann, K., Chur, Switzerland
 Bitzer, J., Basel, Switzerland
 Bramswig, J., Münster, Germany
 Bruckner, P., Münster, Germany
 Bruner, J.P., Nashville, Tenn., USA
 Bryant, D., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Campbell, W., Farmington, Conn., USA
 Carbonne, B., Paris, France
 Chaoui, R., Berlin, Germany
 Chetrit, Y., Aulnay, France
 Chitayat, D., Toronto, Ont., Canada
 Claussen, U., Jena, Germany
 Cosmi, E.V., Rome, Italy
 Crombleholme, T.M., Philadelphia, Pa., USA
 Cuckle, H., Leeds, UK
 Cynober, E., Saint-Maurice, France
 D'Ercole, C., Marseille, France
 Di Renzo, G.C., Perugia, Italy
 Dudenhausen, J.W., Berlin, Germany
 Enders, G., Stuttgart, Germany
 Falkner, F., Berkeley, Calif., USA
 Farmer, D., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Fermont, L., Paris, France
 Froster, U., Leipzig, Germany
 Garabedian, E., Paris, France
 Garritsen, H., Münster, Germany
 Gembruch, U., Lübeck, Germany

Gillet, J.-Y., Nice, France
 Gloning, K.-P., München, Germany
 Hansmann, D., Bad Honnef, Germany
 Hecher, K., Hamburg, Germany
 Herzog, B., Basel, Switzerland
 Huch, A., Zürich, Switzerland
 Huch, R., Zürich, Switzerland
 Hünecke, B., Hamburg, Germany
 Irion, O., Geneva, Switzerland
 Jackson, L., Philadelphia, Pa., USA
 Jacquemard, F., Paris, France
 Johnson, M.P., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Kalousek, D.K., Vancouver, B.C., Canada
 Keith, L., Chicago, Ill., USA
 Kennerknecht, I., Ulm, Germany
 Koletzko, B., München, Germany
 Kramer, R.L., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Kuhn, P., Bern, Switzerland
 Landwehr, J.B., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Langer, J.C., St. Louis, Mo., USA
 Lanouette, J., Baltimore, Md., USA
 Lee, K.-H., Seoul, South Korea
 Leonardi, M.R., Lackland, Tex., USA
 Levi, S., Brussels, Belgium
 Lewis, P., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Liu, D.T.Y., Nottingham, UK
 Lüschg, J., Bruderholz, Switzerland
 Maeda, H., Fukuoka, Japan
 Mau, H., Berlin, Germany
 Mayer, U., Basel, Switzerland
 Meuli, M., Zürich, Switzerland
 Montuclard, B., Paris, France
 Mulliez, N., Paris, France
 Nesmann, C., Paris, France
 Nippert, R., Münster, Germany
 Nugent, C., Ann Arbor, Mich., USA

Nyberg, D.A., Seattle, Wash., USA
 Palm, D., Münster, Germany
 Pilu, G.L., Bologna, Italy
 Pryde, P.G., Chicago, Ill., USA
 Rauskolb, R., Northeim, Germany
 Rightmire, D., Springfield, Ill., USA
 Romero, R., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Rudigoz, R.C., Lyon, France
 Schaad, U.B., Basel, Switzerland
 Schinzel, A., Zürich, Switzerland
 Schneider, K.T.M., München, Germany
 Schwarz, T.F., München, Germany
 Schwendke, A., Basel, Switzerland
 Schwinger, E., Lübeck, Germany
 Siffroi, J.-P., Paris, France
 Soothill, P.W., Bristol, UK
 Spranger, J., Mainz, Germany
 Surbeck, D., Basel, Switzerland
 Szabò, J., Szeged, Hungary
 Taillemite, J.-L., Paris, France
 Tichelli, A., Basel, Switzerland
 Timor-Tritsch, I.E., New York, N.Y., USA
 Tomlinson, M., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Treadwell, M., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Ville, Y., London, UK
 Voigt, H.-J., Kaiserslautern, Germany
 Voto, L.S., Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Wake, N., Beppu, Japan
 Wald, N., London, UK
 Welch, C.R., Upton, Wirral, UK
 Wissner, J., Zürich, Switzerland
 Wolfe, H., Detroit, Mich., USA
 Wolff, F., Köln, Germany
 Yankowitz, J., Iowa City, Iowa, USA
 Yoshizato, T., Fukuoka, Japan
 Zimmermann, R., Zürich, Switzerland