Editorial

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Innsbruck

This is the first issue of International Archives of Allergy and Immunology under the auspices of a new Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor and Editorial Board. When I was asked to act as new Editor-in-Chief of the journal upon the retirement of the present Board of Editors, it took me a certain time for consideration before I accepted this task. This decision was based on several premises.

The still ever explosive development of immunology and the continuously vanishing boundaries between different scientific disciplines promise to make this job intellectually challenging and exciting.

International Archives is not a new immunological journal, but has been firmly established within the immunologic scientific community for 42 years with a wide circulation.

It was founded by Paul Kallos in 1950 and among the members of the now retiring Board of Editors there were close friends, such as Klaus Rother, Heidelberg, and Kyoichi Kano, Tokio, and Felix Milgrom, the successor of my own teacher and mentor, Ernest Witebsky, as the chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical School of the State University of New York at Buffalo. As expected, this close personal relationship provided the basis for a

smooth and efficient transition from the previous to the present editors.

Karger, the renowned publishing house in Basel, Switzerland, that is well known for its efficient production of high quality medical journals and books, gave us complete freedom to reshape the scientific quality and structure of this already well-established international journal.

I was free to choose a Managing Editor and a Board of Associate Editors consisting of highly competent and internationally established colleagues, covering all fields of theoretical and clinical immunology, who will be responsible for the scientific quality of this international core journal.

In order to keep the administrative load for myself, the Managing Editor and the Associate Editors at an absolute minimum and to be able to concentrate mainly on scientific matters, we devised an efficient system of manuscript submission, routing and track-keeping which will be administered by members of our Central Editorial Office at Karger in Basel, Switzerland. The office of the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor in Innsbruck will thus only deal with scientific issues, including the personal contact with the authors.

Finally, I was lucky to be able

to recruit a scientifically highly competent and efficient Managing Editor, Dr. Beatrix Grubeck-Loebenstein, who is assisted by a secretary of native English tongue with a Masters degree in Biology.

I am, of course, aware that, in spite of all these considerations and administrative improvements, running a journal like International Archives will still be a major task, but we are all determined to make this endeavor a success.

The scientific restructuring of International Archives will involve several steps. Although the main focus of the journal will still be on clinical immunology and allergology, we will put considerably more weight on basic research.

Furthermore, we will publish minireviews and commentaries, either in each issue or at short intervals. In addition, we will solicit more elaborate reviews on different hot topics from the field of immunology and related areas of research.

Since the title of the journal is well established in the scientific literature and clearly stands out from other journals of this kind, there will be no change in this respect, with the exception of the deletion of the word 'Applied' from the original title.

We will, however, not forget that the readers of International Archives are and will mainly be clinical immunologists and allergologists, and keep in mind that each issue of the journal should, therefore, always contain papers that are of interest from both theoretical and clinical viewpoints. This should not be too difficult if one considers, e.g., the recent exciting developments in allergology and clinical immunology due to the fast transition of results from basic immunology to clinical medicine providing the understanding of the molecular basis of diseases

and improving diagnostic and therapeutic measures.

International Archives aims to bridge the gap between basic and clinical immunology. Papers considered of special interest will be treated as 'hot topics' and every attempt will be made to publish these especially fast.

The scientific standard of International Archives will heavily depend on the competent and critical cooperation of the Associate Editors, who are listed on the first page of this issue.

Although we do, of course, realize that there are many more areas of main stream immunology, we have identified the following, partly overlapping, sections into which incoming manuscripts will be grouped and, accordingly, forwarded to the respective Associate Editor who then is responsible for the selection of at least two reviewers. These sections are: Clinical Immunology; Allergy Immunopathology and Transplantation; Cellular Immunology; Immunogenetics; Molecular Biology; Immunopharmacology and Immunoendocrinology; Mucosal Immunity; Phylogeny; Ontogeny and Aging; Immunology of Infectious Diseases, and Immunology of Connective Tissue Diseases.

Thus, International Archives which appears monthly, will provide a forum for publication of work of all aspects of modern immunology. A new system of manuscript submission, reviewing and processing will guarantee competent and fair reviewing as well as fast and high quality publication.

As some readers may know, I am an experimental immunopathologist with main interests in the basic aspects of autoimmunity, immunology of aging and immune-endocrine interactions.

However, I also run a diagnostic service in clinical immunology and allergy. Dr. Beatrix Gru-beck-Loebenstein is an associate professor in clinical immunology, thus giving us insight into both the theoretical and clinical aspects of the field. We would like to emphasize that we especially welcome personal interactions with the contributors, including commentaries and suggestions concerning our journal.

Finally, we would like to thank the retiring editors Felix Milgrom, Kyoichi Kano, Klaus Rother, John

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Bienenstock and Lars Ake Hanson for their excellent performance during the past years.

We are now inviting you and your colleagues to submit your work to International Archives, and hope that you will enjoy reading this and further issues.

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