Editorial – 20 Years *Cerebrovascular Diseases*

Twenty years ago, the first issue of *Cerebrovascular Diseases* was published with the aim of providing a forum for the increasing interest in stroke research, at this time one of the most rapidly expanding areas in the clinical medical sciences. In contrast to a variety of journals well covering the field of experimental stroke research, this journal was intended to attract manuscripts from specialties considering clinical aspects in the epidemiology, pathobiology, diagnosis, prevention, management, treatment and rehabilitation of cerebrovascular diseases in Europe and all over the world. The start of the journal coincided with the foundation of the European Stroke Conference, which first convened in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1990 and since then has published all annual abstract proceedings. Both the journal and the conference continuously grew in numbers of contributions and in importance – as reflected by the current impact factor, increasing subscription rates and numbers of readers, thanks to the enthusiasm and support from authors, members of the boards and editors, ad hoc reviewers and staff members of Karger Publishers.

Since 1990, the management, treatment and prevention of stroke in Europe and elsewhere have changed considerably as reflected by the contents, size and presentation of the journal: from clinical phenomenology and small study reports published initially, it came to face now increasing submissions of investigations in translational stroke research, prospective large clinical trials, guidelines and recommendations, controversies and

progress in technology, new concepts for acute treatment, primary or secondary prevention and rehabilitation.

Since then presentation, submission and reading habits have also changed considerably: while in 1991 *Cerebrovascular Diseases* was exclusively published in printed form, in 2003 online-first publication was established, in 2004 electronic peer review (X-press track) started and since 2009 all articles have been available online, including those published earlier (1991–2009); in parallel, online subscriptions increased and form the bulk of our current subscription numbers (>3,000). At present, 12 issues/year including more than 1,250 pages/year are published, and the number of papers submitted reached 1,180 in 2008/2009 from which 265 could be accepted.

Associate editors from all over the world represent Europe (M.G.H.), North America (J.P.M.), Japan (Y.S.) as well as Asia (R.V.) and Australia (S.D.), and more recently a board for experimental aspects of stroke research has been formed (L.H./S.M.). In spring 2010, we will publish a series of ‘Special Editorials’ addressing aspects of stroke research in the past two decades and the future as well as a new series of contributions to ‘History of Stroke’.

Although *Cerebrovascular Diseases* has strong roots in Europe, it has been an international journal since its foundation and will even be more so in future years due to the increasing number of submissions and readers from all over the world, particularly Asia and China. We all welcome your interest and support for the journal in

years to come, and would be pleased to hear from you whenever you feel it necessary. We also appreciate and acknowledge the consistent support from members of the editorial board and the ad hoc reviewers listed below.

The stroke community will have to work more diligently and more closely in times of limited resources and financial support to maintain the current standards of excellence in basic and clinical research for the benefit of

our patients and subjects at risk of suffering a stroke in an increasingly aging population. To achieve this, we are also grateful for the continuous support of our publisher Dr. T. Karger, in particular with the team of our journal in Basel, Switzerland, who already offered a further expansion of capacities in 2010.

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