Editorial

With this issue of *Cells Tissues Organs*, we welcome two additional Associate Editors: Dr. Christoph Viebahn as Associate Editor for Developmental Biology and Dr. Felix Eckstein as Associate Editor for Functional Anatomy and Biomechanics.

Christoph Viebahn holds a chair for anatomy and embryology at Göttingen University, Germany. After graduating in medicine at Erlangen University and a brief period in clinical medicine in the UK, human anatomy soon became his scientific home, first at the University of Bonn and subsequently at Bethesda, Halle and Göttingen, where he chose early mammalian embryology for his central research activities. Determining how seemingly simple but highly dynamic developmental processes are topographically arranged, especially with reference to the first signs of the anterior-posterior axis of the mammalian embryo at gastrulation stages, was always an intriguing proposition in the search for reliable interpretation of experimental data on interactions between cells and extracellular signals. A second research interest deals with the role of early germ-line mitochondria and mitochondrial fate during the enigmatic 'mitochondrial bottleneck' which is thought to assure mitochondrial fitness and homogeneity in every female mammalian germ cell arriving at ovulation. His favoured approach is to follow the same – often experimentally obtained – specimen through a wide range of microscopical methods, including most recently multiphoton live imaging. Using the rabbit as a model organism and having one eye firmly fixed on human development made comparative embryology undoubtedly a 'must'. Interests in teaching and in ethical and historical aspects of embryological science

were kindled at Bonn (the scientific home of Sobotta and Leydig), Halle/Saale (with its Meckel 'dynasty') and Göttingen (Haller, Blumenbach and Henle). Dr. Viebahn has authored many fundamental publications on pattern formation processes in early mammalian development, re-introducing the rabbit embryo as a model and applying approaches of experimental embryology, molecular biology and morphology.

Felix Eckstein is currently Professor and Director of the Institute of Anatomy and Musculoskeletal Research at the Paracelsus Medical University in Salzburg, Austria, and is Chief Executive Officer of Chondrometrics GmbH, a company offering magnetic resonance imaging analysis services to researchers in academia and industry. He studied medicine at Freiburg, Heidelberg, Bristol, Innsbruck, Paris and Montpellier and completed his habilitation in 1997 with Prof. Reinhard Putz at the Institute of Anatomy at the Ludwig Maximilian University München. Felix Eckstein was president of the German Society of Biomechanics (DGfB) from 2002 to 2003, board member of the DGfB from 2000 to 2005, Secretary General of the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) from 2005 to 2006, and board member of OARSI from 2007 to 2009. He is part of the Editorial board of *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage* and is Associate Editor of *Annals of Anatomy*. His research focuses on the integration of imaging methods for understanding the morphology, function and diseases of musculoskeletal tissues, in particular osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.

We hope that you will all join us in welcoming them.

H.-W. Denker

A.W. English