Digestive Surgery: Fit for the Future

After 16 years as editor of *Digestive Surgery*, I shall step down at the end of 2010 and pass it on to the capable hands of an excellent team from the Netherlands (Professors Tilanus, Wijnhofen, Gouma and van Lanschot).

I had the pleasure to share this exciting task with my fellow editors, Eduard Farthmann (1995–2001) and John Neoptolemos (2002–2010), and I must warmly thank them both for the great effort they put into the journal during their terms.

In the past years, *Digestive Surgery* has developed into a noticeable and well-cited journal. The milestones of the journal were the first impact factor of 0.2 in 1997 (fig. 1), which has since risen to 1.37 with a 5-year impact factor of 1.6 in 2009, being accepted in Medline in 1998, the growing number of submitted manuscripts per annum (with a rejection rate of 80%), and the affiliation with four international societies as their official organ: European Digestive Surgery (EDS), the Dutch Society of Gastro-

Intestinal Surgery (NVGIC), the Japanese Society of Gastroenterological Surgery (JSGS), and the Hellenic Society for Digestive Surgery (HSDS).

I thank the Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Board for their continuous and much-appreciated collaboration, our reviewers, and our readers for all the support they have given *Digestive Surgery*. I should also like to thank the Karger back office for their tireless and professional work over the years.

Given its strong audience and authorship, I am confident that *Digestive Surgery* is 'fit for the future' and feel that it is now appropriate to pass this still young journal into new and responsible hands. I look forward to following the further development of *Digestive Surgery* as one of our regular readers.

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Fig. 1. Impact factors 1997–2009.