The arrival of a new year, 2013, brings with it some important changes. Dr. Marcella Devoto, the conscientious Editor-in-Chief of our journal, is stepping down after 9 years of devoted service in this demanding position. We are grateful to her for her dedication and the many accomplishments we have seen under her guidance. Dr. Devoto oversaw the publication of over 400 manuscripts, as well as the special issues: Issues in Association Analysis (March 2005); Gene-Gene and Gene-Environment Interaction in Complex Trait Genome Wide Association (February 2007); Novel Methods in Mathematical Genetics (April 2007); Advances in Family-Based Association Analysis (March 2008); Analysis of Human Genetic Data – A Celebratory Issue of Human Heredity Honoring Dr. Jürg Ott (July 2011); Next Generation Linkage Analysis (December 2011); and the upcoming special issue Analyzing Rare Variants in Complex Diseases (to be published in 2013).

Throughout her tenure as Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Devoto maintained the highest journalistic standards, always strove for excellence, welcomed stimulating and thought-provoking contributions, and always maintained an openess to manuscripts that may have seemed ‘out of the mainstream’ for Human Heredity.

It is a credit to Dr. Devoto’s dedicated efforts that, during the time she was Editor-in-Chief, Human Heredity consistently maintained an ISI Impact Factor over 1.5, no small feat for a journal whose focus is statistical genetics.

We regret that Dr. Devoto is stepping down, and we wish her well as she continues her full-time responsibilities as Professor of Pediatrics at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Devoto carries with her our heartfelt gratitude and fondest good wishes. We salute her and wish her much satisfaction.

With the start of the new year, we are pleased and honored to welcome Dr. Françoise Clerget-Darpoux as Dr. Devoto’s successor. We wish her well as she assumes the position of Editor-in-Chief. We also greet Dr. Emmanuelle Genin in her new role as Senior Editor of the journal. Both are capable and well qualified to take on these responsibilities. Both are known to many of you from their extensive work in statistical genetics and their substantial involvement in organizations such as The International Genetic Epidemiology Society and the European Journal of Human Genetics. We extend a most hearty welcome, confident that the future of our journal has been placed in such capable hands.

Derek Gordon
Katherine Montague

The authors sincerely thank Dr. Louis Stein, who read the initial draft of the editorial and made numerous suggestions that significantly improved its content.