Pathobiology Introduces a New Category

‘Novel Insights from Research Practice’

We recognize several different approaches the way research is done today. Existing fields merge with others or disappear completely, while new domains of research appear. With these changes, there are new methods that come into focus and others that may be obsolete. For example: We have been assisting at the emergence of ‘translational research’ and this journal is in part dedicated to this form of research. Pathobiology invites original research papers from the interface of basic and clinical research. This includes methods ranging from basic laboratory methods to quantitative or qualitative research. Sometimes, a single observation or the study of similar cases has moved our knowledge forward. A historical example is Thomas Hodgkin’s description of 7 autopsy cases of a disease of the ‘absorbent glands’, which later should take his name. In more recent times, the discovery of a rare cancer form, Kaposi’s sarcoma, – usually found in the Mediterranean region in elderly men – now found in young gay men, was at the beginning of our understanding of the AIDS epidemic. Following these single reports, in July 1981, the New York Times reported on cases of Kaposi’s sarcoma affecting 41 gay men.

Sometimes, novel insights may come from observations that do not have a randomized controlled trial, or that do not have an experimental set-up ready to answer the research hypothesis. Given this fact, the Editorial Board of Pathobiology decided to introduce a new category of papers: ‘Novel insights in research practice’. This section will accept completely new observations that have not yet been described anywhere else. It will not be a section for case reports but a section for real novelties. This section will go through the usual reviewing process.

We invite researchers to submit their observations and hope that this new possibility is in line with their expectations and fills a gap.

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