Outgoing Editor in Chief's Farewell Message

To the readers of *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica*:

With this editorial, I announce my retirement as Editor in Chief of *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* (*FPL*), effective on December 31, 2016. The new Editor in Chief is Professor Mike Robb of the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. Dr. Robb brings a wealth of research and editorial experience to the job, and we are so fortunate that he agreed to head *FPL*, a journal that makes a unique contribution to the field of communication sciences and disorders.

My editorial history with *FPL* goes back to 2003 when I agreed to serve as Associate Editor in Motor Speech Disorders and Speech and Hearing Sciences under Dr. Harm Schutte, who was then Editor in Chief. I served in that capacity for 7 years, up to the time when Dr. Schutte asked me if I would be willing to assume the Editor in Chief position at *FPL*, more or less coincident with his official retirement from his university position. In this regard, I am following Dr. Schutte's lead, for my retirement as Editor in Chief of *FPL* coincides pretty closely with my retirement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, where I have worked since 1980.

FPL is a unique journal because of its explicit mission to represent the scientific and scholarly efforts of people from around the world, people who are working to understand more fully and more accurately all aspects of communication disorders. *FPL* is the official publication organ of The International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatics (IALP), although submission of scientific work, scholarly reviews, and other articles pertinent

to communication sciences and disorders is open to everyone. Throughout the years I have been Editor in Chief, the cooperation between the Executive Board of IALP and Karger, the publisher of *FPL*, has been extraordinary in many ways. The Editor in Chief of *FPL* is in a unique position in this relationship because that person simultaneously must represent the best interests of the publisher and those of IALP. I have been very impressed with the joint determination by IALP and Karger to make *FPL* the best possible scholarly outlet for all aspects of work in our field, from every part of the world. The emphasis of high standards of scholarship from the global speech, language, and hearing community is a central feature of *FPL*'s unique role among the rather large, contemporary array of peer-reviewed journals in our field.

I thank Sandra Braun, the Product and Marketing Manager for *FPL*, for her invaluable and friendly assistance throughout the past 6 years. The Editor in Chief of *FPL* is an ex officio member of the IALP Executive Board, and I owe thanks to Professors Tanya Gallagher and Helen Grech for their support during their terms as IALP president.

Finally, and most importantly, my thanks go to the Associate Editors and many reviewers who committed much time and constructive effort to emphasizing the 'peer' in peer review.

Let's continue to develop the knowledge base in our field, with scholarly care and a global perspective.

Sincerely,

Gary Weismer, Madison, WI, USA