Editorial

A rapidly growing interest in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, which can be recognized in the medical, life science, engineering and industrial community, has led to an increasing awareness of the potential to create innovations that may eventually improve and replace current ways of treating patients. Tissue engineering offers the potential to develop and apply novel biotechnological tools that can lead to the manufacture of a plethora of novel biological substitutes. This opens at the same time fascinating and important questions about basic principles of cell differentiation and tissue modelling/remodelling that need to be and will be addressed in our journal.

Cells Tissues Organs has defined tissue engineering (and, in particular, its cell and developmental biology aspects) as one of its new focus areas. We are very pleased to announce here an additional service in this field: the new section Patent Watch. Starting with the present edition, *Cells Tissues Organs* will regularly list and briefly describe new patent submissions or patents granted, see p. 228. Our purpose is to facilitate and improve the information flow in the field of tissue engineering and in vitro technologies in the interest of our readers. Patent databases are expensive for individual scientists to consult, but knowledge of recent developments here can be of utmost interest since patent submissions often precede scientific publications by several years so that they can provide early information about individual activities and future directions in the field. We have thus decided to provide our readers with this additional type of information. This is an experiment; it appears that so far no other related journal offers a comparable section. We will be glad to learn about your reaction to this addition to *Cells Tissues Organs*, and we welcome your comments.

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