Passing on the Baton

The first issue of *Acta Haematologica* was published in 1948, only 3 years after the end of World War II, aiming to fill the gap left by the disappearance of *Folia Haematologica*. Only 2 years after the inauguration of the prestigious journal *Blood*, the aim of *Acta Haematologica* was destined to gather hematological clinical data from both sides of the Atlantic in all fields of hematology: classical hematology, coagulation, blood banking, and hemato-oncology. Indeed, in the early years, the journal's material was published in 3 languages: English, French, and German, hoping for cooperation in the scientific world of the different parts of post-war Europe. As stated in 3 languages in the Introduction (Avant-Propos [French], Zum Geleit [German]) to the first issue of *Acta Haematologica*, it was the Founding Fathers' wish "to put the clinical interest in the foreground." In effect, throughout the years, the journal has kept its unique clinical profile alongside the novelties and developments of the new era, trying to keep the practicing hematologist well informed of the latest developments in the field. From a historical perspective, the journal was founded by Editors-in-Chief E. Meulengracht, K. Rohr, and G. Rosenow, to be followed by H. Lüdin (1960–1977), U. Bucher (1977–1983), R.S. Hillman (1978–1987), H.R. Marti (1983–1988), E.A. Beck (1984–1988), B. Ramot (1989–1992), B. Ramot and I. Ben-Bassat (1992–1995), and I. Ben-Bassat (1995–2017). It is with much respect and humbleness that I am stepping into the shoes of these leaders. While the first issues were published in 3 languages, the leading language from the mid-1950s was

English, which became the sole language of the journal from the mid-1970s onwards.

The journal has always been and will continue to be committed to bringing to its readers cutting edge clinical information, including the different aspects of hematology, alongside translational research relevant to clinical daily life.

During the 25 years of his tenure as Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Ben-Bassat introduced multiple innovations to the journal which I hope to continue and push forward: while keeping the traditional clinical profile of the journal, modernization involved moving into a computerized era. Alongside the customary original articles, case reports and reviews, new aspects were introduced such as special issues dedicated to specific topics and gathering together reviews from leading experts in their field, editorial commentaries, and more. I feel privileged to take the baton from him and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership during the last 25 years. I hope to continue with the present categories and to establish new ones in the near future. I would like to acknowledge the team of editors, the editorial office, and publication managers, as well as to thank the Karger family for their ongoing support. Last but not least, I would like to express our gratitude to our readers for their trust and involvement. In the coming years, together with this wonderful team, I hope to consolidate and further develop the status of *Acta Haematologica* as the leading clinical journal in hematology.

Prof. Pia Raanani, Editor-in-Chief