Mission Statement

Gerontology was founded by F. Verzá in 1957 and thus is the journal with the longest tradition in the field. While most other journals focus on specific areas of gerontological research, *Gerontology* has a very broad scope. This is reflected by four Sections to which manuscripts are allocated, viz. (1) Clinical and Epidemiological, (2) Experimental, (3) Behavioural, and (4) Regenerative and Technological. This broad scope takes into account many of the facets of current aging research, a field that continues to move into the centre of scientific interest, both from basic and applied viewpoints.

(1) The Clinical and Epidemiological Section accommodates original work in these areas that are of interest to a broader readership. Papers covering research on clinical and epidemiological aspects in all fields of medicine will be considered.

Manuscripts of mainly geriatric content will not be published in *Gerontology*.

(2) The Experimental Section contains biological, experimental gerontological work, ranging from molecular over cellular to organismal aging, including all experimental aging models.

(3) The Behavioural Science Section publishes work on behavioural aspects of aging in experimental animals and humans, again taking into account the necessity to address a broader rather than specialized audience only.

(4) The Regenerative and Technological Section tries to attract interesting, original work from regenerative biology, such as comparative studies on mechanisms regarding regenerative processes in animal species, which are models for the situation in humans.

In addition, this Section also harbours papers on technological aspects. This topic has gained increasing importance during the last decade. However, so far there has

been no forum for the publication of this kind of work in direct connection with biological and behavioural research thus exposing a broader audience with biogerontological expertise to this discipline. Although the human body appears to be an optimal compromise developed during evolution to its present phenotype, attempts to improve it beyond this state (“enhancement”) are being discussed.

Submission of purely descriptive papers without addressing the mechanisms underlying a given phenomenon or phenotype is discouraged.

The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to arrange the submitted manuscripts into one of the four Sections.

Ethical Requirements

Appropriate proof has to be provided that all ethical prerequisites have been fulfilled. These include permission granted by responsible independent Ethical Committees and informed consent of participants in studies on human subjects, as well as permission obtained from Review Boards for animal experiments.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Authors are required to disclose any sponsorship or funding arrangements related to the research presented in the manuscript and any possible conflicts of interest. A possible conflict of interest does not preclude consideration of a manuscript for publication, but the statement

must be listed at the end of the article. All forms of support and financial involvement should be listed in the Acknowledgements section of the paper. The cover letter should certify that all forms of conflict of interest by all authors were clearly identified in the text.

Types of Manuscripts

Gerontology publishes the following types of manuscripts:

(1) *Original Research Papers* (max. 6,000 words and 40 references).

(2) *Short Rapid Communications*. These must contain data derived from front-edge research that deserve especially fast processing and are of potential interest for a large fraction of the readership of *Gerontology* (max. 2,000 words and 10 references, plus 2 figures or tables).

(3) *Invited Mini-Reviews* (max. 4,000 words and 40 references) and occasionally *Invited Systematic Reviews*. They are to be submitted exclusively upon solicitation by the Section Editors or Editors of Special Issues, via the Editor-in-Chief.

(4) The *Debate* and *Viewpoint* sections publish arguments, critical statements and theoretical papers reflect-

ing the authors' personal view on mechanisms of the aging process in all areas within the scope of *Gerontology*. Manuscripts are to be submitted exclusively upon solicitation by the Section Editors via the Editor-in-Chief, and be limited to 4,000 words and 40 references.

(5) *Study Protocols* (max. 4,000 words and 40 references). Manuscripts must definitely be focused on gerontological research and can only be submitted after prior approval of the Editor-in-Chief.

(6) *Letters to the Editor* (max. 1,000 words and 10 references). Letters may be self-sustaining or represent a concise statement concerning a publication that recently appeared in *Gerontology*. In exceptional cases, they may also address data published in another journal. All Letters have to be submitted within one month after the publication of the paper in question.

(7) *Editorials* will be written exclusively by the Editors and address timely topics of gerontological research.

All manuscripts – including invited ones – are subject to peer review.

Manuscripts far in excess of the limits (text and/or number of references) as specified above will not be processed.

Georg Wick, MD, Editor-in-Chief