Dear reader,

This year 2019 not only marks 60 years of publishing with “Pharmacology” but also an unbelievable 21 years – from 1999 to 2019 – of my serving as an editor for this prestigious journal. Just apart from the fact that in the first years following 1999 the manuscripts and all the correspondence between authors, editors, reviewers and production department were sent as hard copies by mail (just image this today?), and now we are served by an efficient online manuscript management program, many things have changed. It was always the primary task of “Pharmacology” to foster publications on mechanistic investigations of drug actions. Much has been achieved in this aspect, and the well-known statement in earlier textbooks “the exact mechanism of action of this drug is not known” has nowadays largely been replaced by a detailed understanding of the molecular targets of therapeutic as well as of unwanted drug effects. In line with this, an enormous advancement has been achieved regarding pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics in the field of drug actions. All this can bring us a step further to the

overall goal of the much discussed “personalized medicine,” with better therapeutic drug effects and less drug failure or unwanted side effects. For the pharmaceutical industry, this issue is a stressful, yet rewarding task.

In this situation, let me look back on 21 years of publications by pointing out the papers with the highest impact according to their number of citations:

- Hayes JD, Strange RC. Glutathione S-transferase polymorphisms and their biological consequences. *Pharmacology*. 2000 Sep;61(3):154–66. Review, with a smashing 654 citations up to now; and
- Sharma S, Anjaneyulu M, Kulkarni SK, Chopra K. Resveratrol, a polyphenolic phytoalexin, attenuates diabetic nephropathy in rats. *Pharmacology*. 2006;76(2):69–75, with 131 citations.

It has always been my intention not only to process submitted manuscripts but also to actively invite reviews and commentaries on timely topics. The commentaries were not always mainstream, sometimes quite controversial, and I think altogether they contributed to a visible and continuing success of the journal.

During this time, I personally was affiliated with the Medical Faculty of the University of Graz and from 2004 onward with the Medical University of Graz, a young university highly ranked worldwide among young institutions. After my retirement in Graz in 2018, I accepted an interim position at a still younger Medical Faculty, that of the Johannes Kepler University of Linz, to stay connected to the field of pharmacology.

At a time of an ever-growing number of manuscripts submitted to our journal, it will be the task of the new editorial team, headed by Prof. Stephan von Gunten from the University of Bern, to put “the good ones into the pot” – he knows how to achieve this. I thank all the responsible managers at the S. Karger Medical and Scientific Publishers for the successful years. All the best wishes to the new editors, readers, and friends of “Pharmacology”.

Josef Donnerer, Linz