Editorial

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“To every thing there is a season...,” and with this issue a transition in the editorship of *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*. Your outgoing editor was remarkably fortunate coming into the role under the experienced guidance of his predecessor, Phil Gildenberg, whose own tenure had spanned 27 years. He set an example of deep personal commitment and devotion to the journal for which there is no substitute. He had followed, of course, the first editor and founder of the journal, Ernst Spiegel. In the 82-year history of the journal, the incoming editor will be only the fourth to hold that position. In handing over the role, I could not be more pleased in passing the baton to Andres Lozano, a stereotactic and functional neurosurgeon of the highest order, a true visionary in both science and clinical medicine, and a most respected leader by example. The journal could not be in better hands.

Our field has grown from a somewhat obscure, esoteric subspecialty – only a small minority of academic medical centers and training programs performed stereotactic neurosurgery not that many decades ago – to what is one of the most exciting and revolutionary frontiers in medicine today. Non-ablative neuromodulatory advances are unprecedented, and application to previously unapproachable and intractable disorders continues to grow. That stereotactic principles of co-registration and accurate guidance now characterize most neurosurgical

procedures, not to mention an increasing number of interventions in other surgical and radiation therapy disciplines, is so taken for granted its heritage in stereotaxy is almost forgotten. The stereotactic and functional community is thriving, attested to by its ever-growing societies and their scientific and professional gatherings around the world. Through all this, we have accrued the enormous benefits and power of sharing knowledge, inspiration, and fellowship. These developments and activities occur on many levels, but central to all has been *Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery*. Our specialty and our journal are very well-positioned.

A debt of gratitude and heart-felt thanks are owed a great many. It is widely appreciated that behind every successful journal is a tireless Editorial Board, but I doubt it is ever appreciated enough. As busy and overcommitted as every neurosurgeon surely is, these individuals give freely of their time and effort, manuscript after manuscript after manuscript, recognizing the vital role of the journal in the transmission of new understanding. There are too many reviewers to name here individually, but our journal would not exist without them. I am indebted to all of them, and especially to the handful who carried a greater load and still returned critiques and recommendations overnight. Look at the Editorial Board list, and when you see them at the next meeting, thank them (despite that review of your last manuscript).

Karger similarly deserves our gratitude for shepherding our enterprise through good times and hard. Their publishing expertise and faithful support has been unwavering, especially in enabling the journal to become the official journal of now nine world and regional societies. I would like to give a special shout out to Thomas Nold, who for nearly the entirety of my editorship oversaw the journal for Karger with utmost attention, wisdom, and generosity.

We all but especially your editor owe special thanks to the extraordinary individual who served as assistant editor all the years of my tenure, Melissa Robb. She read ev-

ery manuscript, answered every query, fixed every problem, and cared as deeply about the journal as anyone I know. Lastly, I must express my thanks and gratitude to you the stereotactic and functional community: the contributors, readers, and supporters of the journal. At the end of the day, it is you who make the journal what it is and what it can be. I thank you for your trust and for the opportunity and privilege of serving as your editor.

David W. Roberts, MD

Editor, Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery