Editorial

Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation, was founded as the *Monatsschrift für Geburtshilfe und Gynäkologie* (Monthly Journal for Obstetrics and Gynecology) in 1895, more than 100 years ago. At that time only 5 years had passed since Samuel Karger founded the Karger publishing house and published a *Geburthshülffliches Vademecum* (Vademecum for Obstetrics) [1] as its first definitive manual. The field of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive medicine has been at the core of Karger's interest since the early days. Yet, this field has evolved in many ways and now covers highly diverse areas such as obstetrics, maternal-fetal medicine, benign gynecology, urogynecology, gynecologic oncology, infertility, assisted reproduction, contraception, menopause, reproductive genetics, gynecologic surgery including endoscopy, microsurgery, and so on. As a result, 42 out of 56 OB-GYN journals that were ranked in the Science Citation Index (SCI) [2] in 1999 cover a subspecialty area. Only 14 SCI ranked OB-GYN journals still cover the whole specialty, including among them the *British and American Journals of Obstetrics and Gynecology*; this journal, *Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation*, is part of this select group. Despite the preponderance of subspecialty journals, the majority of obstetrician-gynecologists still perform clinical practice as general OB-GYNs. Furthermore, with new advances in reproductive genetics and molecular technology, it has become possible to study basic physiologic and pathophysiologic mechanisms that overlap between diverse OB-GYN subspecialty areas and even between diverse medical specialties. For instance, the biological process of implantation is relevant to understand embryonic-endometrial interactions, endometrial-peritoneal adhesion in the pathogenesis of endometriosis, and the peritoneal metastasis of ovarian cancer. This reality clear-

Thomas M. D'Hooghe

Jerome Yankowitz

ly indicates the need for a general OB-GYN journal containing high-quality and relevant clinical and scientific information for practitioners, researchers and students.

As newly appointed Editors-in-Chief, we intend to further increase the quality, impact factor and distribution of *Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation* by promoting the publication of accurate, readable, and relevant clinical or basic research. A journal is as good as its reviewers. This journal has now become a truly international journal with European and American Editors-in-Chief and Associate Editors working together with a global Editorial Board. We are proud to have assisting us as Associate Editors Prof. Ignace Vergote (Leuven, Belgium) for Gynecologic Oncology and Prof. Bridget Zimmerman (Iowa, USA) for Epidemiology and Statistics.

In speaking to us about assuming the role of Editors-in-Chief, our predecessor Prof. G. Zador commented that

he hoped he would be replaced by someone who cared for the quality of the journal and who would work to maintain its important place. This summarizes his outstanding contribution in the 17 years he fulfilled the role of Editor-in-Chief and sets a goal for us as we assume the role of Editors-in-Chief. Over time we will write other Editorials outlining specific changes in the journal to fulfill this mission.

We also want to reach out to national or international professional organizations in OB-GYN and welcome them to consider the idea that *Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation* could be their official journal. We hope to expand the list of Associate Editors with OB/GYNs in charge of such professional organizations who then could invite and pre-review papers from their own countries before submission to our journal. It would be possible to publish proceedings of national or international OB-GYN meetings, workshops, and/or conferences in Supplements to *Obstetric and Gynecologic Investigation*.

Finally, we thank Steven Karger for his trust in honoring us with the Editor-in-Chief responsibility and we will work hard to have a highly successful second century of *Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation*.

Thomas M. D'Hooghe, MD, PhD,
Jerome Yankowitz, MD
Editors-in-Chief

References

- 1 Durhssen A: Geburtshulflches Vademecum. Ein Kurzes Lehrbuch der Geburtshulfe fur Studierende un Arzte. Berlin, 1890. 15 editions. Translations into English, French, Italian, Polish, Russian, Turkish.
- 2 Journal Citation Reports (Science Edition), Subject Category Listing 1999, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Institute for Scientific Information.