Supramolecular Biology

Scientific journals in the broad field of pathophysiology come in two types: those defined by the disciplines which they encompass and those defined by (a group of) disease(s). Journals on cell biology, physiology or pathology belong to the first group, journals like ours to the second. It is amusing to see to what degree, in this second kind of journal, the contents can be subject to fashion. In the 1960s and 1970s, *Haemostasis* and its by now forgotten precursor *Coagulation* strongly reflected the emergence of biochemistry and cell biology as tools in our research field. Nevertheless, clinical pathophysiology remained a central theme in our journal. In the 1980s and 1990s, molecular biology became the word of the day; this was also reflected in our journal, but again the main focus remained pathophysiology and clinical observation.

These days, the molecular biology approach has become firmly established and, simultaneously, the high hopes that it raised in the scientific community have been reduced to more realistic proportions. Once more, it has become clear that after biochemistry and cell physiology, molecular biology is also a useful tool for grasping what is going on in our patients, but not the one and only key to understanding.

In the end, pathophysiology is a matter of 'supramolecular' biology, that is, the interaction between large ensembles of biological molecules that can be as large and complicated as plasma, blood, vessels and whole patients.

It is interesting to see that over the years, *Haemostasis* has continued to devote many of its pages to 'old-fashioned' clinical and chemical pathophysiology. Its tenden-

cy not to follow the fashions of the day too closely has guaranteed it a faithful readership among clinicians and basic scientists. Now that it is becoming more and more clear that establishing the genotype is only a first step in comprehension of the phenotype and that the medical community is eagerly waiting for the incorporation of new basic knowledge into practice, we feel that the tradition of *Haemostasis* assures an approach that, by being constant in a world of changing fashions, suddenly appears to be ahead of its time.

That is why we wanted to stress the importance of this approach in a change of title; from now on, *Haemostasis* will be called *Pathophysiology of Haemostasis and Thrombosis*. This change emphasizes more than ever the point that in the end it is the understanding of normal functioning and its deviations in pathology that matters for the patient.

J. Rosing
H.C. Hemker

If I may add a personal word: I am extremely happy that, after over 25 years in the position of Managing Editor of *Haemostasis*, I am leaving the journal in the capable hands of my successor Jan Rosing. His contributions to biochemical aspects of the pathophysiology of coagulation are a guarantee that the journal will continue to flourish. Under his guidance, the increasing importance of the special niche which it occupies will no doubt be reflected in an increasing resonance of our journal in the scientific community.

H.C. Hemker