JVR: Handing on the Baton

In 1991, I had the privilege to take over the main editorship of what was then *Blood Vessels* from Prof. John Bevan. Prof. Gary Owens (University of Virginia) joined me as co-Editor and the name of the journal was changed to *Journal of Vascular Research*. Together with an enthusiastic Editorial Board, we sought to continue providing vascular scientists with a journal for which the key words were novelty and scientific excellence. The aim was to have a top quality journal edited by and for vascular scientists, with the overall objective of providing the rapidly growing vascular field with a platform for presentation of the most exciting developments.

The goal was ambitious: a journal can only exist if it publishes papers, and authors need to have confidence in a journal before they submit their best manuscripts to it. To a large extent, the optimism was justified in that the standard of the manuscripts submitted and published has increased steadily over the years. This standard is reflected in the publication statistics which indicate that we have only been able to accept 25–30% of submitted manuscripts. This is in line with the policy which the Editors and the Editorial Board have consistently followed, that we have an obligation to our fellow scientists to seek quality rather than quantity. Manuscripts should, we believed, provide balanced answers to significant questions; one good manuscript, rather than several partly-finished pieces of work. Nevertheless, the Editors have borne in mind that editors are also authors, and have always been open to discussion of editorial decisions, an important aspect of the peer-review system.

Over the past 10 years, the Journal has sought new ways of disseminating information, and making full use of

the technical changes which have occurred. The JVR Internet Discussion Forum has been introduced, where articles are placed on the net prior to publication for full discussion, with edited parts then published in the Journal. Electronic publication of meeting abstracts has reduced meeting costs, while still allowing full reference. E-mail submission and refereeing of manuscripts has been introduced, a technique which has been found effective. Importantly, JVR has since 1999 been the official journal of the European Society of Microcirculation, while Prof. Ulrich Pohl (University of Munich) and Prof. Gerry Meininger (Texas A&M) took over the co-editorship.

The time has now come, however, to hand on the baton, and it is of the greatest pleasure for me that Ulrich Pohl has agreed to take over the post of Main Editor, with Gerry Meininger continuing as co-Editor. As a scientist Ulrich Pohl needs no introduction, while his organizational abilities are phenomenal. Under his leadership, I am convinced that the journal will from its present base indeed be able to become a lead journal in vascular science.

Finally, I should like to thank my co-Editors and the members of the Editorial Board for providing me with their expertise and inspiration. The staff of Karger are thanked for our good and friendly collaboration. And not least, my warmest thanks to the editorial staff who have borne the burden of the administrative aspects of the editorship for their hard work and meticulous attention to detail.

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February 2002