New Editor-in-Chief's Note

I believe that the Editor-in-Chief of *Neuroimmunomodulation* should provide both the vision and necessary supervision to the journal to insure that only the latest information of the highest quality is published. The Editor-in-Chief should make sure that the journal's functions are performed smoothly and rapidly and that the final product is as good as possible. Satisfaction of the readers will be the key quality control outcome.

The Editor-in-Chief is ultimately responsible for the quality of the final product and the satisfaction of the subscribers. He or she should be responsible for the final acceptance of manuscripts by going over these manuscripts and the comments of the Reviewers and Associate Editors. The Editor-in-Chief should be ready to intervene and adjudicate when controversy arises. The Editor-in-Chief should also be ready to seek the counsel of the Society's Publications Committee when major issues that require such counsel arise.

The Associate Editors are responsible for dealing with manuscripts in their subfield of expertise. They direct the manuscripts to appropriate Reviewers, assess the merits of these manuscripts and the comments of the Reviewers and make an appropriate decision regarding their disposition.

I would increase the current number of members on the Editorial Board. The members will cover every subfield of neuroimmunomodulation and allied fields, will serve as Reviewers and Consultants on manuscripts and as Advisors to the Editor-in-Chief concerning solicitation and inclusion of editorials, reviews, news and perspectives and articles of interest to the readership. The Editorial Board will meet during the Annual Meeting of the

International Society for Neuroimmunomodulation (ISNIM).

Neuroimmunomodulation is one of very few field journals in the world. As such, the journal has a major impact on the way neuroimmunomodulation research is conducted on a daily basis and on the way this is applied in clinical practice. The status of the journal reflects great credit upon the previous and current Editors, and is a direct result of their excellent stewardship.

Like all scholarly enterprises, the journal requires constant efforts to maintain and improve its already excellent quality. To accomplish these goals, the journal must make a conscious effort to increase its publication of scientific papers and reviews that reflect the impact of molecular and cellular biology and epidemiology, as well as of physiology, on the theory and practice of neuroimmunomodulation. Moreover, it must do so in a way that makes the science of molecular and cellular biology and its applications in neuroimmunomodulation accessible to the physician-scientist as well as the clinician.

In addition to molecular and cellular biology, all of the basic biological sciences are crucial to the practice of contemporary clinical neuroimmunomodulation research. The journal should be more active in bringing alive basic science of relevance to research and clinical practice for physician-scientists and practicing clinicians in a way that is accessible and stimulating.

The journal could also enhance its function as the primary source of information on neuroimmunomodulation research for basic scientists, academic physicians and allied health professionals. At present, there are few contexts for the critical review of new areas and controversial

topics in neuroimmunomodulation. Moreover, there is no forum for the review of key new books and articles in the areas that influence neuroimmunomodulation research, theory and practice. A 'News and Views' and a 'Book Review' section should be added to enrich the journal and to make it more desirable to the readers. Finally, publishing work that conveys the invaluable intuitions of experienced academic clinicians or the ways in which they perform research and organize the delivery of care should be emphasized and strengthened.

The journal's current procedure has kept the time from submission to publication at a reasonable interval. I would institute a short form for early screening of manuscripts similar to that employed by the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. I would enforce a 2-week time interval for Reviewers to return their reviews. I will continue the fax policy and I will institute an electronic mail policy as well. I am in favor of electronic manuscript submission, peer review, tracking and archiving, and the time is rapidly approaching when many of the subscribers, including libraries, will require material only in an electronic form.

Neuroimmunomodulation should evolve from its current status as the world's outstanding field journal into a truly great scientific journal. This is appropriate for a journal whose charge is to cover science and medicine of relevance to this broad and rapidly expanding field, including state-of-the-art research and development of strategies in the diagnosis and treatment of relevant clinical disorders, and the factors essential for providing the foundation for good health throughout life.

Successful realization of this vision will require the sustained efforts and leadership of an Editor-in-Chief who is superbly trained in basic science and clinical research, who has the capacity to integrate the many areas of science and medicine now crucial to the field of neuroimmunomodulation, who is devoted to the exercise of training and teaching and who is committed to making *Neuroimmunomodulation* a truly outstanding scientific journal. The new Editor-in-Chief must also possess the intuition, drive, interpersonal skills, judgment and breadth of knowledge required to coordinate the scholarly activities of an exceptionally broad field and to select and inspire a group of Associate Editors and members of the Editorial Board who share his or her vision and commitment.

As Editor-in-Chief of *Neuroimmunomodulation*, I would work not only to increase the representation of molecular biology and other basic sciences in a way that is fully accessible to clinicians and allied health professionals, but also to institute several other changes in editorial procedures and format that I feel would improve the qual-

ity of the journal and its impact on neuroimmunomodulation, medicine and science. These would include the following:

(1) Rapidly publish articles with crucial information. I would strengthen the section for Rapid Communications with significantly expedited review and publication of certain articles. Endocrine investigators should be able to send worthy cutting-edge data in competitive areas to the journal for an assuredly rapid publication.

(2) Focus on the prismatic case. A prismatic case is one whose investigation potentially opens up a new field of biology. A dedicated clinical investigator encounters such a patient rarely – maybe once or twice in a lifetime – but always knows when this encounter has occurred. I propose that the journal further encourages clinicians to render personal and scientific accounts of such patients.

(3) Convey the vision and intuitions gained through extensive clinical experience. Clinicians often specialize in diagnosing and treating certain classes of disorders. I propose inviting outstanding clinicians to convey to others not only facts and data in traditional format, but also the fruits of intuition gained through long experience and careful observation.

(4) Provide optimal models for the organization of neuroimmunomodulation clinics and clinical services. Senior clinicians have evolved a variety of structures for delivering outstanding clinical care. I propose a section that would encourage reports on various proven structures based on extensive experience as templates for the organization of the delivery of care in inpatient, outpatient and community settings.

(5) Discuss diagnostic and therapeutic controversies in neuroimmunomodulation. The journal is a natural forum for publishing critical round table discussions or debate regarding controversial matters. I will encourage a formal section that would facilitate such discussions and their publication.

(6) Illustrate fundamental and emerging principles of clinical care through presentation of clinical case seminars in neuroimmunomodulation. I propose a feature similar to the Case Records of the *New England Journal of Medicine* that will be edited by one of our new Associate Editors.

(7) Succinct reporting of groundbreaking scientific news of relevance to neuroimmunomodulation. I propose a section similar to that in *Science* that succinctly reviews one of the journal's major papers or other conceptual or technical breakthroughs in neuroimmunomodulation.

(8) Review of significant new books and articles of relevance to neuroimmunomodulation. At present, there is no widely disseminated forum for the review of important new texts or articles of relevance to neuroimmunomodulation and metabolism. I propose assigning such a section to one of our new Associate Editors.

(9) Review of basic science for the nonspecialist. I propose that the Editor-in-Chief periodically invites internationally known experts to write comprehensive and accessible reviews of basic science areas that are directly relevant to clinical theory and practice in neuroimmunomodulation.

I would like to emphasize that these new initiatives will not interfere with the publication of primary articles, which are the core of the journal. Rather, I hope that they will be coordinated to illuminate this work and to place it in a coherent context. Moreover, I expect that these initiatives will help physicians, scientists and allied professionals to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of the art and science of neuroimmunomodulation.

In addition to our natural constituency, that is, basic endocrinologists, immunologists and neurobiologists, I will institute a major effort to attract outstanding neuroimmunomodulation-related papers from clinical subspecialties that employ scientific expertise and methodology to study diseases that fit thematically under the rubric of neuroimmunomodulation, e.g. immunology/rheumatology, allergy, critical care medicine, pediatrics, psychia-

try and clinical pharmacology, among others. The enlargement of the scope of the journal should increase the number of subscribers and advertisers. Electronic methods of submission, peer review tracking and archiving will streamline the procedures and decrease the expenses.

The future of scientific and scholarly journals given the advent of electronic dissemination of information was captured beautifully in a prescient editorial by A.M. Edelson in *Science* [1]. Electronic publishing and dissemination of information will have a profound impact on scientific and scholarly journals, which to survive and thrive will have to adapt and reconcile themselves with the idea that they may eventually become entirely electronic. I believe that the future of *Neuroimmunomodulation* is closely linked to the progress of electronic technology and that the journal should brace itself and prepare for a parallel, successful and promising electronic route.

I would like to thank the Publications Committee of the ISNIM again for the honor of offering me this important position. I am optimistic and look forward to future interactions.

George P. Chrousos, MD, Bethesda, Md.

References

- 1 Edelson AM: On the future of scholarly journals. *Science* 1998;280:359.