A Retiring Editor's Note

It is the necessary task of an Editor-in-Chief to broadly define the scope of his journal. Among the huge number of scientific journals, the reader should know what to expect. The *International Archives of Allergy and Immunology (IAAI)* has a long tradition as a journal combining basic research with clinical interests in allergology and immunology. It has therefore been a privilege, as well as a pleasure, for me to continue along the lines of my predecessors. Due to the increasing incidence of allergic diseases – especially IgE-mediated allergies – over the last decades, cellular and molecular allergology were the main targets of Rudolf Valenta and myself during our editorship. Nonetheless, we tried not to forget that allergology is only one of the facets of immunology, though than important one, and therefore original papers and reviews of other immunological topics, such as rheumatology, tumor and transplant immunology, immunology of infectious diseases, were included as well. Our slogan has been: 'Fast, fair, and high quality'. We have devoted considerable efforts to turning this concept into reality, and the increased interest in *IAAI* is the reward for our efforts. Rudolf Valenta as the new Editor-in-Chief, together with Erika Jarolim-Jensen as the Managing Editor, will make every endeavor to keep this course. Both are internationally recognized researchers; they have studied with me, and I am convinced that they have the capacity of making *IAAI* a leading journal in its fields.

I would like to express my most sincere thanks to Rudolf Valenta, the Managing Editor of the past five years, for many fruitful discussions and constant support. This applies also to all Associate Editors, who have been of invaluable help in giving *IAAI* its present shape. I would also like to extend my thanks to the members of the Editorial Board, who have played an important part in evaluating the manuscripts submitted for publication, and to all other reviewers involved in this process.

Finally, I would like to warmly thank Thomas and Steven Karger. My relationship with the publishers was characterized by a most positive atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation. I have truly enjoyed working with S. Karger.

I wish *IAAI* all the best for a further prosperous development and will remain a loyal but critical reader of *IAAI* in the future.

Dietrich Kraft