Editorial

On January 1, 2003, beginning with the first issue of volume 65 of *ORL – Journal for Otolaryngology and Its Related Specialities*, Professor Bert O'Malley, Jr., MD, will be taking over the responsibility from me as Editor-in-Chief for our journal. During my time as Editor-in-Chief it was with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I followed the tradition of my predecessors – J. Berberich and E. Schlitter (1938–1946), L. Ruedi and E. Huizinga (1947–1970) and C.R. Pfaltz (1968–1984) – in retaining and extending the specific character of this scientific journal. Thanks to the helpful and friendly support of our many editors and co-editors, and especially thanks to the contributing authors, it was possible during this time to continually improve *ORL's* standing so that it is now one of Europe's leading scientific journals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues who assisted in making the journal such a continuing success. I would also like to thank S. Karger Publishers, especially Dr. Thomas Karger, Mr. Steven Karger and the ever helpful editorial team, who were always open to new suggestions and helped modernize the journal's outward appearance.

In the current times of MedLine and scientific internet libraries it is becoming more and more difficult for any journal to increase its subscription numbers. Most young residents and students nowadays, even when they are working on a highly active scientific level, use the internet to search for publications and then order a copy of the interesting articles or read them at the library. Thus, subscriptions come mainly from the libraries of the larger academic institutions. It should be one of our tasks as teachers in our institutes and also as editors and co-editors, to motivate academic colleagues to start reading and buying original journals again. I wish Bert W. O'Malley success in his new position and would like to assure him, with the co-editors, of our full support in the best interests of *ORL*.

Wolfgang Arnold, Munich