Editorial

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I very much regret that this is the final issue of *Natural Immunity*. This journal was initiated in 1981 as a direct result of the vision and enthusiasm of Dr. Eva Lotzova. Eva became involved with the biological effects of natural immunity while in the laboratory of Dr. Gustavo Cudkowicz, who pioneered the characterization of hybrid resistance in mice to transplantation of bone marrow stem cells. Her research evolved to mainly focus on the possible contributions of natural killer (NK) cells to resistance to the development and progression of leukemia and other types of cancer. During the early years of this journal, it provided a very useful and appropriate home for papers by the relatively small group of scientists internationally who shared Eva's interest in the nature of natural immunity, especially that mediated by NK cells, and its biological roles in host resistance to cancer and a variety of infectious diseases. When Eva died in 1994, I was privileged and very pleased to assume responsibility as Editor and to continue this valuable publication. Since then, the

field of natural immunity has evolved and many more scientists around the world have become deeply involved in the immunobiology of NK cells and other natural effector cells. The cell surface receptors for recognition and regulation of their activities have been progressively identified and well characterized, signal transduction pathways have been elucidated, and the molecular mechanisms responsible for cytotoxic activity and cytokine production have been increasingly understood. This impressive progress has brought NK cells into the mainstream of immunology, with many fine research contributions welcomed in all of the most prestigious immunology journals. This progressive success in the basic immunobiology of NK cells and other aspects of natural immunity has somewhat ironically reduced the need for this focused specialty journal. Thus, the cessation of publication of *Natural Immunity* is not an indication of lack of interest, but rather a sign of the maturity and widespread acceptance of this important area of research.

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1018-8916/98/0166-0175\$17.50/0

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