To Our Readers

It is a great honor for me to take over the job of editor-in-chief of *Human Heredity* following 14 years of leadership of my mentor and friend, Dr. Jürg Ott. This could not happen at a more exciting time for our scientific community. The readers of *Human Heredity* are well aware of the wealth of knowledge becoming available thanks to the advances of research in human genetics. At the same time, we are still facing many challenges, particularly in the definition of the molecular basis of complex traits. It is to this field of research, and in particular to the methodological and statistical aspects underlying it, that *Human Heredity* has devoted most of its pages in the last years. That this has been a successful editorial policy is reflected in the most recent impact factor, that for 2003 is 2.26, the highest it has ever been. For this we need to thank the dedication of everyone in the Editorial Office, and in particular Dr. Derek Gordon and Ms. Katherine Montague, in addition to all Associate Editors. With their help, it is my goal for the next years to continue and improve the circulation and the quality of our Journal, following in the tradition of my predecessors. But this of course will only be possible with the support of you, the readers, authors and reviewers of *Human Heredity*. I would thus like to invite you to continue to submit your papers with the promise that I will make every effort at further reducing the time span between submission and publication. This will be facilitated by the implementation of a full electronic submission and revision system that should become available through our web site, <http://www.karger.com/hhe>, in the near future. But I would also like to ask everybody to write directly to me at my email address, mdevoto@nemours.org, with any suggestion or comments that you may have about *Human Heredity*. I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible in the coming months.

Marcella Devoto, Wilmington