Publisher's Note

Pathobiology was first published in 1938 as *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Allgemeine Pathologie und Bakteriologie* under the chief editorship of A. v. Albertini, A. Grumbach and H. Mooser, Zurich. Its aim was to create a synthesis between the ever more specialized fields of pathology, bacteriology and microbiology in general, providing scientists in both fields with relevant information. At first articles were published only in German and French, later on English was added and over time became the sole language of publication. In 1960 the title changed to *Pathologia et Microbiologia*, stressing the international character of the journal and the aim to make it available to all researchers interested in this field. It was around this time that the founders retired one by one, and the journal was managed by J.R. Rüttner, Zurich. From 1945 to 1975 the journal also served as the official organ of the Swiss Microbiology Association. In 1976 the journal was renamed *Experimental Cell Biology*, but retained its emphasis on pathology topics, and in 1990 it received the title by which it is known today, *Pathobiology*. With this change in title, the chief editorship passed to J.M. Cruse and R.E. Lewis, Jackson, Miss., and the journal *Pathology and Immunopathology Research* – founded 1982 as *Survey and Synthesis of Pathology Research* by the same two gentlemen – was incorporated into *Pathobiology*. Emphasis was laid on research at both cellular and molecular levels and on giving additional special impetus to

immunopathology, then a relatively new and burgeoning segment of molecular pathology.

In 1999 the chief editorship passed to Prof. Ch. Wittekind, Leipzig, who has continued to promote the goal of the journal to bring together the different scientific fields of biology and pathology over the last five years. In his Editorial in 1999 he wrote that 'a good journal is made for the reader, and not for the publisher, the editors and authors. Only those who keep the reader and his scientific interests in mind will be successful with a journal over a long period of time'. I believe this to be entirely correct, and would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest thanks to Prof. Wittekind for his untiring efforts and dedication to our journal. I have always enjoyed collaborating with him, and look back with pleasure to many enjoyable meetings with him in Leipzig and elsewhere.

A new leaf is now being turned in the history of *Pathobiology*. Prof. Wittekind has decided to step down as Editor-in-Chief, and I wish him the very best for his private and professional future. It is with great pleasure that I welcome as his successor Prof. Bettina Borisch, Geneva, and look forward to many years of fruitful collaboration with her. I am convinced that her ideas and impulses will ensure the journal's continued growth in reputation and quality.

Thomas Karger