Editorial

This journal focuses on both neuroembryology and on aging, i.e. on both the development of the nervous system in the very young as well as on the changes in structure and function that occur with age. One should remember that changes that occur with age may not simply involve the downregulation of events, but in many cases involve the upregulation of activities in the molecular arena as well as the eventual replacement of physiological activities in one region of the brain by another. A recent example of this phenomenon was the discovery of the increased importance of the prefrontal cortex in many physiological activities in the old. In essence, in the old, one does not see 'decline only' phenomena, but rather a vast range of upregulation and downregulation of the various biochemical and physiological activities that are used to adapt the body to the process of aging, before the stage of real and apparent decline sets in. To this end, the process of embryology to adult and from adult to old age is a continuous progression of changes with time. In order to understand these changes as a whole, we have amended the journal from accommodating only the research findings in the prenatal and postnatal periods to covering old age as well. Thus, readers can compare and contrast the continuous changes that occur in the central nervous system as a whole, from its development to its adaptation and then to its final decline.

Papers on all aspects of the nervous system in both invertebrates and vertebrates (including humans) will be considered for publication. Clinical studies will also be considered as long as they illustrate *de novo* results or directions. Pure morphology papers will only be accepted if they can be tied with functional implications. Papers related to mechanisms are particularly encouraged. Comparative neurobiology aspects of development are also welcome. Methods of studies can include morphology, histochemistry and cytochemistry, biochemistry and molecular biology as well as new techniques such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) scanning.

My sincere thanks to all the members who served on the editorial board of *Neuroembryology*. To those of you who still serve on the editorial board, I look forward to your future input, comments and suggestions. To the new members, I would like to say welcome and I am looking forward to your guidance.

David T. Yew, Hong Kong
Wood Y. Chan, Hong Kong