Editorial

This year sees the retirement of Claude Kordon as Editor-in-Chief of the journal and my inception as custodian. Claude has dedicated himself to the development of the journal and has accomplished a number of memorable milestones. These include the full automation of the review process, which has resulted in a substantial reduction in average time for manuscript evaluation, rapid advance on-line publication of each issue, negotiation of low-priced electronic subscription for members of neuroendocrine societies, and, when appropriate, publication of color prints of data free of charge.

The journal was established by E. Bajusz in 1965 and grew in the capable hands of K. Knigge, W. Ganong, S. McCann and C. Kordon to be the premier vehicle for communicating advances in *Neuroendocrinology*.

Major recent publications in the journal uncovered new actions of leptin and ghrelin [1, 2], reported on original mouse knock-out models [3], identified novel signaling pathways [e.g. 4], elaborated novel peripheral hormone (e.g. estrogen) effects on the brain [5, 6], promoted submissions on advances in clinical neuroendocrinology and introduced a new initiative on peripheral neuroendocrine tumors [7] and neuroimmune interactions [8, 9].

Discovery of the neurohypophyseal peptides of the posterior pituitary and the hypothalamic peptides regulating pituitary hormone secretion were major breakthroughs that were recognized in the award of the Nobel Laureate on three occasions. These singular and classic contributions of *Neuroendocrinology* to advances in medicine persist unabated to this day. For example, oxytocin and vasopressin analogs have been employed in the clinic for many decades. GnRH analogs now comprise an an-

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nual pharmaceutical market of about USD 2 billion and are universally employed in IVF, constitute the major treatment for prostate cancer and are the only effective treatment for precocious puberty. Somatostatin analogs are extensively used to treat acromegaly and CRF analogs show promise for a number of therapeutic applications.

Latterly, the discovery of leptin, MSH, AGRP, NPY, PYY, orexin and ghrelin as neuroendocrine peptides regulating appetite and metabolism has fostered intense research in the search for new pharmaceuticals to control obesity, a major killer in the developed and developing world. *Neuroendocrinology* has thus contributed exten-

sively in medicine in the past and promises to continue to do so in the future.

The changing face and pace of science in the post genomic era presents major challenges for the repositioning of journals, and not least *Neuroendocrinology*. I intend to introduce a number of initiatives to maintain and improve the status of *Neuroendocrinology*. These include the recruitment of new editors and editorial board members, the introduction of several special focus editions and timely cutting-edge mini-reviews on emerging new dis-

coveries and technologies in neuroendocrinology. The journal is the vehicle for the dissemination of scientific discoveries in neuroendocrinology. Its success relies on the quality and originality of the science that it communicates which is ultimately dependent on the contributions of the editors, board, reviewers, contributors and readers. I look forward to working with all of you in achieving this goal.

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