

# Editorial

## A New Phase for The AJP

With the July issue, *The American Journal of Pathology* enters a new phase with the appointment of a new editor-in-chief, eight associate editors and a new managing editor. Our goal for the next 5 years is to make the AJP the premier journal focused on mechanisms of disease. The study of disease mechanisms, conducted until not too long ago primarily in pathology departments, is now pursued by scientists in diverse settings. To a considerable extent, the field owes its success to the breakdown of artificial compartmentalization among various biomedical disciplines and the use of approaches that combine the methods and mode of thinking from these various disciplines. Complex models, whole animals, and human tissues are once again being considered as suitable material for sophisticated research while the term *in vivo* is slowly regaining its appropriate meaning. It is our hope that the best of these studies will be published in the AJP. We will give priority to high-quality papers that explore the pathogenesis of disease in human tissues and experimental models using modern techniques of cell and molecular biology. We also welcome manuscripts that report the development of new probes that are important for studies of disease pathogenesis and diagnosis. In addition to regular papers (full length and short communications), the Journal will present editorial commentaries on specific articles, short reviews on special topics, and from time to time, articles on new models and methods (a description of the scope, manuscript categories, and the review process appears under "Information for Authors"). Our intent is not only to print high-quality research papers but also to present new perspectives, foster debate, es-

tablish communication with our readers, and perform an educational function.

The formulation of ambitious plans for the next 5 years was made possible by the vision, work, and dedication of Vincent T. Marchesi and Jon S. Morrow who directed the AJP for the last 10 years and made it a thoroughly modern, visually attractive and successful publication, as indicated by the number of submissions received. Since January 1, the new team has handled the review of newly submitted manuscripts while Drs. Marchesi, Morrow, and Ms. Gretchen Ferrante, the retiring managing editor, completed the unfinished business from the past year. To them we offer our warmest thanks. We are also grateful for the support and encouragement received from officers and the membership of the American Association of Pathologists.

The appointment of a group of associate editors who are geographically dispersed and have a wide range of expertise will decentralize some of our functions and directly involve a larger number of people in editorial decisions. This new organization and a policy of rotating the members of the Editorial Board after usually two 3-year terms of appointment ensures that the Journal will be supplied with new ideas and will benefit from continuing enthusiasm for its goals. We count on the active participation of members of the American Association of Pathologists and the broad spectrum of scientists everywhere who are engaged in research on mechanisms of disease.

Nelson Fausto  
Editor-in-Chief