



EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In 1989 the Australian Society for Parasitology honoured me with the presentation of the Bancroft Mackerras Medal, and at that time I thought greater honours were not possible. However, I considered myself even more greatly honoured when the Search Committee recently approached me concerning editorship of the *International Journal for Parasitology*, and this was confirmed when I was recently elected by the membership of the Australian Society for Parasitology to the Editor's position.

Despite a declining international scientific economy, the journal is in a very good state, largely due to the efforts of the retiring Editor, Alan Donald. Alan took over editorship in 1994, and since then the journal has continued to improve.

Although one must always remember that bibliometric analyses are mathematical "snapshots" and that there are other factors to a journal's "quality", I think it is worth considering the past and current citation indices of the *International Journal for Parasitology*, as at least one prominent parasitology journal uses these figures in their advertising campaigns. In 1993, the Science Citation listing placed our journal as 10th out of 19, in 1994 it was 9th, and in 1995 (the latest analysis), it was 8th. In this position we rank ahead of a journal sponsored by a large North American parasitology society, and a journal sponsored by a large European parasitology society. Alan Donald has gradually increased the standard of the journal to its current high level, and on behalf of the members of the Australian Society for Parasitology I wish to publicly acknowledge Alan's tremendous efforts for the journal, and thank him sincerely for them.

Of course, Alan has been very ably assisted by others. Alan's initial period of editorship was interrupted by other work commitments and Peter Boreham helped him through this period. Peter had always worked very hard for the Society and the journal, but in the last few years of his far too short life, he worked even more tirelessly for the journal as Associate Editor and Peter certainly deserves our posthumous thanks. In addition, Alan has been supported by the Deputy Editor, Specialist Editors, Section Editors and the Editorial Assistant, Camille Sainsbury. The standard of the journal is clearly also a reflection of their

efforts, and they certainly deserve our thanks. Thanks must also go to the CSIRO staff at the McMaster laboratory who have provided physical assistance to the Editorial Office.

In assuming responsibility for management and editorial policy on behalf of the Society, I intend to continue Alan's pursuit of quality. Although we currently rank as high as 8th out of the 19 journals in parasitology, that means we still have 7 positions to go and I intend to continue the upward climb of the journal. A change in Editor of a journal is always an appropriate time to review procedures and formats. I am very pleased that Camille will continue supporting the journal and move with the editorial office here to the University of Technology, Sydney. However, several members of the Editorial Board had already indicated to Alan, and have reconfirmed to me, that heavy work commitments will unfortunately preclude them from continuing to support the journal in their positions past the end of this year when their current contract expires. Hence we will see some editorial changes beginning next year, so if you have any thoughts on the direction the journal could be taking, please let me know in the next few months. For example, although we certainly need to continue the journal's very strong base in what might be termed traditional parasitology, the number of publications in the journal on molecular parasitology do not appear to mirror the very strong increase in this area in international parasitology research over the last few years, and is perhaps something that needs to be addressed. Similarly, the majority of publications in the journal emanate from research laboratories in Australasia and the United Kingdom, and while this needs to be encouraged, so does the publication of more articles from North America, western Europe, and Asia, as befitting a journal called the *International Journal for Parasitology*.

I have recently had discussions with the Publishing Editor in Amsterdam, and we are keen to continue to improve the quality of the articles published while reducing the time from receipt of manuscripts to publication, and we are looking at a number of possibilities to do this. However, initially the only editorial change will be that manuscripts should be sent to me

at the Editorial Office now located at the Gore Hill Campus of the University of Technology, Sydney, as detailed on the front cover and in the Instructions to Authors. Please continue to send your manuscripts describing your high quality parasitology research, and/or any ideas you may have on how we can continue to improve to this new Editorial Office.

ALAN M. JOHNSON
Editor-in-Chief