

Farewell to JCS

After almost 20 years as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Cell Science* I am stepping down to accept new challenges. I have enjoyed my role enormously – due, in large measure, to the enthusiasm and commitment of my fellow editors and editorial board members, and to the efforts, energy and patience of our authors and reviewers. Over the years I have sought to publish papers that cover the full range of topics in cell biology and to stay true to the principles of honest, high quality science and fast and fair reviewing. The journal looks good, thanks to the dedicated production team at our publishers, the Company of Biologists, and I am particularly grateful to Tom Galliers, who has been a huge supporter of JCS over the years.

When I took over as editor, there was no database of reviewers and authors, let alone a web-based manuscript tracking system. Paper copies of manuscripts were stored in large cardboard folders, edged with thick green adhesive tape. These took up a lot of space and threatened to overwhelm my secretary's office. As time passed, I developed a rudimentary database using FileMaker Pro. I also hired an Executive Editor, a position that was held with élan for several years by Richard Sever, now at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Richard and I worked well as a team, talking to prospective authors at the meetings we attended and (in Richard's case) drumming up additional support for the journal by playing football at various Gordon Conferences. Richard successfully managed the transition of JCS to BenchPress, the Web-based manuscript tracking and management service that we currently use.

Over the years, the front section of the journal has grown. It not only contains Commentaries (short review articles), but also the popular Cell Science at a Glance series, of which the poster files can now be downloaded as individual panels for teaching purposes. In addition, it has been a huge pleasure to entertain, and be entertained by, Caveman, Mole and, more recently, Molette and X-Gal, in the front of the journal. I have occasionally used the front section for special projects, such as my series of articles about Women in Cell Science, a tribute to an earlier generation of women scientists that illustrates the challenges they have faced.

As readers are no doubt aware, the Company of Biologists is a not-for-profit organisation. It has been very satisfying to know that profits from the journal are used to benefit scientists in a variety of ways. We support conferences around the world and also fund travelling fellowships that allow researchers to make short visits to other laboratories for training or collaboration. Over the years, the directors and employees of the Company have changed rather little, and I would particularly like to thank Simon Maddrell, who was one of the directors responsible for my appointment, for his wise advice and support.

In closing I would like to apologise for the occasional slip-up (nothing too major, but a completely unblemished record would have been better!), and to wish the next Editor-in-Chief and the journal all the very best for the future.

See also accompanying Editorial 'Farewell to the Editor-in-Chief' (*J. Cell Sci.* **124**, 4131) in this issue.

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