

Every journal in clinical medicine thrives on the quality of information it can provide for the clinicians and scientists in the field. This quality, however, is dependant on the manuscripts which are submitted. As such, the quality of a journal also heavily relies on the scientists who contribute their experimental and clinical work, and who are not necessarily identical to the general readership. Therefore, getting the mix right is crucial for both sides. The considerable rise of the impact factor which NEURO-PEDIATRICS has seen in the last year to now 1.4 not only puts the Journal among the top 10 pediatric journals but also indicates that, for the time being, the two ends have met. This process would not have been possible without the constant input of knowledge, and sometimes wisdom, of the members of the Editorial Board as well as of the prominent scientists who have contributed reviews. It is only with their help and support that the Journal can flourish.

In order to promote science in the field of pediatric neurology further, NEURO-PEDIATRICS is proud to announce that the Journal together with the Gesellschaft für Neuropädiatrie (Society for Pediatric Neurology of Austria, Germany and Switzerland) will sponsor, from 1998, the annual *Paul Emil Becker* Lecture, to be held at the Annual Congress of the Society by eminent international scientists in the field. Emeritus Professor *Paul Emil Becker*, whose name is eponymously attached to *Becker* muscular dystrophy and *Becker* myotonia, strongly supports this project himself. NEURO-PEDIATRICS will be pleased to publish this Lecture in order to make it accessible to its readers throughout the world.

It has become a policy of the Journal to encourage a regular turnover among the members of the Editorial Board. I am deeply grateful to Dres. *M. J. Levene*, Leeds, *G. Jacobi*, Frankfurt, and *R. Michaelis*, Tübingen, for the enthusiastic share they have taken in promoting the Journal over the years and for their high quality contributions. My special thanks go to emeritus Professor *Franz J. Schulte* who, in 1969 helped to found the Journal then called NEURO-PÄDIATRIE and who over the years of his editorship turned NEURO-PEDIATRICS into an international journal deeply rooted within the international community of pediatric neurologists. His name will remain tightly connected to the Journal as one of the two Founding Editors.

It is my great pleasure to welcome *Georg F. Hoffmann*, Marburg, among the Editors in Chief. His expert knowledge particularly in the field of neurometabolic disorders will certainly help to bring this still vastly underdiagnosed group of disorders further into the limelight. I would further like to welcome Dres. *M. King*, Dublin, *I. Krägeloh-Mann*, Tübingen, *R. Surtees*, London, *M. Tardieu*, Paris, and *H. Topaloğlu*, Ankara, as new members of the Editorial Board.

I am sure that NEURO-PEDIATRICS will keep the momentum to stay at the forefront of research in pediatric neurology and provide a forum for expertise and new discoveries in this exciting field of clinical medicine.

Thomas Voit

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