These are challenging, changing and uncertain times in health care, academics, and industry. Innovation and collaboration are essential for us to succeed in improving the lives of women with cancer. In this rapidly evolving environment, Gynecologic Oncology provides a conduit to communicate scientific and clinical advances that create the foundation for evidence-based best practices. Creative initiatives that enhance efficiency and improve clinical outcomes will provide value-added affordable care for our patients. Laboratory-based discoveries, clinical-translational insights, clinical trial outcomes, and surgical advances are progressing at an accelerating pace, and Gynecologic Oncology is committed to delivering high quality peer-reviewed information to you in a timely manner. We've been able to achieve this mission. Thanks to the support of our outstanding deputy editors, editorial board members, reviewers, and authors—as well as our publisher, Elsevier, and our Society, the Society of Gynecologic Oncology.

In the three years since our new editorial team was handed the baton, we have worked to introduce innovations and enhancements that would improve the Journal's service to our community. Online access to articles and table of contents alerts have been expanded. Review and publication times for new manuscripts have fallen, while the number of submissions has continued to rise. In the last year, more than 1150 manuscripts were submitted by authors representing 50 countries—demonstrating the global reach of the Journal. The average time between submission to first decision fell to just 15 days, and the time from acceptance to online publication is now only 22 days. Themed special issues were published to focus on topics of burgeoning interest such as New Biomarkers and Risk Predictors for Prevention and Early Detection, Technological Innovations and Novel Surgical Approaches, and most recently, our special issue focusing on Survivorship and CAM. We introduced a biannual State of the Science series to provide treatment updates on individual gynecologic cancers, and our meeting reports have informed our readers of the “hot topics” presented and discussed at national and international scientific meetings of interest.

The Journal has focused on publishing original research as well as other relevant editorials, commentaries, and reviews while maintaining transparency and promoting the highest integrity in scientific publication. Intensely aware of the heightened scrutiny of publication ethics, we carefully review conflicts of interest for authors, reviewers and editors. Submissions are screened for redundancy and plagiarism, appropriateness of authorship and ghost writing, and IRB approval and ethical conduct of research. Manuscripts are reviewed by our statistical consultant to help assure the validity of study design and conclusions prior to publication.

Earlier this year we launched Gynecologic Oncology Case Reports. This new open access journal provides a timely and more accessible format for publishing challenging and instructive clinical scenarios and experiences. Another exciting innovation is the publication of peer-reviewed surgical films that will be referenced in PubMed. With all of this activity, we recruited two new deputy editors. Dr. Laurel Rice from the University of Wisconsin and Dr. David Cohn from the Ohio State University will help us continue to grow, improve and innovate.

The Journal has remained focused on scientific quality and serving the interests of our diverse constituency. Metrics have included the total number of manuscript citations (representing usage of the information we publish), as well as the Journal’s impact factor. The 2010 impact factor was 3.760 representing an increase of 44% since 2007. This remarkable rise in Gynecologic Oncology’s impact factor can be attributed to the high quality of the research submitted by our authors, as well as the Journal’s ongoing innovative initiatives. We have also worked to elevate the Journal’s profile through collaboration and co-marketing with our health science colleagues including Lancet Oncology, Cancer Cell, Fertility and Sterility, and the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. These efforts have taken the form of print ads, electronic banners, e-blasts, and listing on obgynadvance.com.

In the coming year, we can be certain that we’ll encounter more changes and new challenges. You have my commitment that Gynecologic Oncology will continue to do view these situations as opportunities, and embrace the imperative for ongoing innovation and collaboration. We welcome your ideas and input regarding the Journal’s performance and how we can better serve you. Ever the optimist, I believe we can continue to expand the Journal’s influence and service to our community as long as we remain focused on our core values of high quality and unimpeachable integrity. In so doing, we will get closer to our ultimate goal of improving care for women with cancer.

Beth Y. Karlan, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief