

# The Future of *Immunity*

# Editorial

January 1, 1997 marks a major transition in the three year history of *Immunity*. On that day, the editorial direction of the Journal will be transferred from Harvard/MIT in Boston to Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. This is a natural transition of editorship that is planned to occur periodically over the lifetime of the Journal.

The outgoing editors, Abul Abbas, Frederick Alt, Laurie Glimcher, and Hidde Ploegh together with the reviews editors Charles Janeway, Jr. and Al Singer have done an outstanding job in guiding *Immunity* into a prominent position among immunology journals. They have been the driving force in helping the Journal realize its stated mission of rapidly publishing cutting edge, peer reviewed papers of scientific excellence and immunological breadth. *Immunity's* highly successful beginnings are a direct result of the substantial personal commitments of time and effort on the part of the editors, and the current and incoming staff of the Journal thank them for their invaluable contributions.

The new editors, Paul M. Allen, Kenneth M. Murphy, Robert D. Schreiber, and Emil R. Unanue, will share equally in the editorial direction of the Journal. All have had long-standing relationships with *Immunity*. Two have been associate editors since the Journal originated, while the other two have been used heavily as invited reviewers. In addition, Al Singer will stay on as the reviews editor, a position he has filled for the past 21 months. As a group, we look forward to the challenge of promoting the continued growth of *Immunity* and enhancing its sphere of influence within the national and international immunology community.

In order to accomplish these goals we will abide by the following standards. First, we intend to maintain the original mission of the Journal. Our goal is to publish high quality, novel, and exciting papers in the field of immunology. The Journal has been successful in attracting papers in many areas of the field, such as MHC, antigen processing and presentation, antigen receptor

gene assembly and expression, autoimmunity, tolerance, and lymphocyte development and activation. However, because the Journal is now well established, we hope to broaden *Immunity's* scope to include the areas of structural biology, signal transduction, cytokine biochemistry and biology, host defense against infectious agents, and tumors and immunopathology. We will therefore continue to support the well-represented areas being published in the Journal, but will also actively encourage submission of high quality, state of the art contributions in these other areas. We have therefore expanded our board of associate editors to broaden the areas of expertise represented.

Second, we are committed to maintaining the efficient review of submitted papers and to publish rapidly those that are accepted. Our intention is to preserve the current 3 week average decision time on most submitted papers and to publish accepted papers within 8–12 weeks from submission of the final manuscript. This short turnaround time has been intentionally established to encourage investigators to submit their most important findings to *Immunity*.

The transition process begins this month and will be completed by January 1, 1997. All communications with the Journal will continue to be through the Cell Press office in Cambridge, MA. All new papers submitted to *Immunity* after December 1 will be sent to the new editors in St. Louis. Papers that list a Washington University faculty member as an author will be guided through the review process by one of the past editors in Boston. All papers currently in the review process will be overseen by the past editors until February 1, when the oversight of these papers will be transferred to St. Louis.

Thus, in sum, we approach this new challenge with great enthusiasm and with strong commitment. We welcome comments and suggestions from interested individuals and encourage them to work with us to expand *Immunity's* place within the world immunology community.

## The Editors

Paul M. Allen

Kenneth M. Murphy

Robert D. Schreiber

Emil R. Unanue