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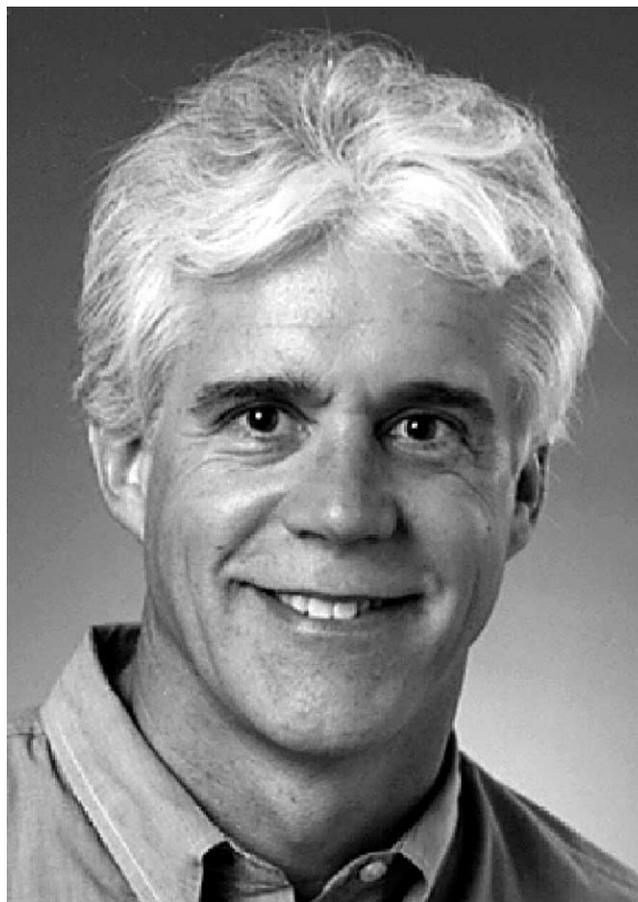
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Editorial

Passing the torch



This issue of *Developmental Biology* marks the end of a chapter in the life of the journal and in my life, and the beginning of a new chapter in the journal's 48th year. For the past 10 years, I had the privilege and responsibility of serving as the journal's Editor in Chief. This has been a rewarding experience and an opportunity to tackle interesting new challenges, while at the same time giving something back to our community.

Ten years ago, I had no idea how to lead a journal, and I am indebted to the Board of Trustees of the Society for Developmental Biology, then-President Helen Blau, and the leadership of Elsevier Press for placing their confidence in me. I had a lot to learn back then (and still do),

but, thanks to an abundance of support, was able to grow into the job.

A lot has changed in science in 10 years. As but one example, consider that the feasibility and value of sequencing the human genome were under debate back then. Today, dozens of eukaryotic genomes have been sequenced, with a transforming influence on all facets of the life sciences, including developmental biology.

The past decade has also witnessed a transformation in scientific publishing. When I began my term as Editor in Chief, the journal was not yet published on-line, nor were submissions or reviews processed electronically. The push for "Open Access" journals was also yet to come to the

fore. While there are different opinions on this issue, someone must ultimately bear the cost of publishing a journal. *Developmental Biology*, in close cooperation with its publisher, has worked to develop a fair and effective strategy of no-cost to the authors for publication or color figures, as well as providing generous support for the academic missions of the Society of Developmental Biology. The special symbiotic relationship forged between the journal and the society has enabled both organizations to flourish.

A multitude of individuals have contributed to the success of the journal during these 10 years. First, a journal can only be as strong as the best papers it receives, so I want to begin by thanking all the authors for sending us your work and trusting us to evaluate it fairly. I also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the team of editors that shared the load with me: Carmen Birchmeier, Marianne Bronner-Fraser, Eric Davidson, Scott Fraser, Matthew Freeman, Richard Harland, Phil Ingham, Rindy Jaffe, Robb Krumlauf, Mike Levine, Gail Martin, Bill McGinnis, Andy McMahon, Olivier Pourquie, Gary Ruvkin, Matt Scott and Gary Wessel. Special thanks also to the dedicated editorial board and the hundreds of our colleagues for their rigorous, fair and timely reviews. The staff of Academic Press, now Elsevier, especially Jasna Markovac, also provided continual support and advice along

the way. Finally, I have been fortunate to have an amazing administrative staff that made it all look easy.

As I move on to new challenges, I will miss the close interactions with the editors and seeing the fruits of our efforts in each issue. There are also a few things I will not miss, such as the stack of manuscripts that will never disappeared from my desk.

As one of the longest standing journals in our field, *Developmental Biology* continues to thrive, the impact factor is higher than ever and rising, and the future is bright. Robb Krumlauf, the next Editor in Chief, has served tirelessly as an editor for the past ten years, and has the scientific taste, objectivity, and commitment to take the journal to the next level. One of the secrets of leadership is to know when to pass the torch. For me that time is now, and there is no one I would rather pass it to than Robb Krumlauf.

Thanks again to everyone for your support and all the best for the future!

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