

Publisher's note

A word of farewell and a word of welcome

After more than a decade of strong leadership, we must say farewell to the Editor-in-Chief of BBA, Professor Peter van der Vliet. Peter initially joined BBA nearly 20 years ago as an Editor. Since 1994, he has held the senior position of Editor-in-Chief.



Peter van der Vliet

BBA was founded in the Netherlands in 1947. Since its inception it has been managed by a series of eminent biochemists. The journey that began in Europe with the first Editor, H.G.K. Westenbrink, now ends with Peter van der Vliet and will be continued across the ocean in North America by Professor Dennis Vance. Dennis is a world-renowned scientist in the field of lipids, an area that has been a key strength of the journal. We are pleased that Dennis has accepted our invitation to lead the journal, and we look forward to collaborating with him.

Dennis is the latest in a succession of distinguished scientists who have devoted their expertise to BBA. He has begun the process of identifying many emerging fields for incorporation into BBA, improving the journal. As we adapt, he will ensure that our valued authors and readers can continue to appreciate the journal they have read and published in for many years. We are confident that Dennis will expand the tradition of excellence established by his predecessors, maintaining BBA as an eminent journal known throughout the world.

Peter van der Vliet was instrumental in expanding the size of the journal. Not only have the number of submissions and pages published increased, but the scope of the journal and breadth of coverage have also expanded to keep pace with innovative fields of science. He was very active in developing special issues that appear on a regular basis in BBA. BBA is among the 10 most heavily used journals in many biomedical libraries. Peter has meant a great deal more to BBA beyond his managerial role as Editor-in-Chief. His leadership, hard work and dedication,



Dennis Vance

fairness and integrity infused the journal with a professional character of its own. Peter's contributions to the BBA community have been immeasurable and we are profoundly grateful to him.

While most of our authors and readers appear to be in the Americas, BBA continues to be an international journal. The geographical location of individuals in the global research environment matters less, of course, now that we have e-mail and e-submission, combined with a near-universal acceptance of English as the language of science. At any hour of the day or night, science is happening somewhere in the world. There are two BBA offices in the US, our Production site in San Diego, California, and our Scientific Editorial Office in Burlington, Massachusetts, both serving strong scientific communities in North America. The unique global character of the journal is reflected by the composition of the Board of Editors. BBA has recently witnessed strong growth in Asia, and we are fortunate to already receive many excellent papers from this region. We will continue to encourage submissions from Asia and further gear the journal towards serving this community too.

The year 2007 is the 60th year of publication for BBA. We are launching this anniversary year with cover designs for the printed edition of the journal that will provide a fresh look to mark the start of this new era. Accepted 'in press' original research papers will continue to be posted speedily online in each section of the journal, as well as on PubMed and Scopus. In addition, our upcoming schedule includes an impressive array of solicited reviews and thematic special issues. Many new expert scientists will join our Editorial Board.

You, the authors, referees and readers, are the strength of our journal. We thank you for your loyalty to BBA, and we encourage you to contact the Publisher (f.klinkenberg@elsevier.com) or our new Editor-in-Chief, Dennis Vance (dennis.vance@ualberta.ca), with your suggestions and comments. We appreciate hearing your ideas and are happy to receive your manuscripts. Please join us as we build on the successes of the last 60 years.

The Publisher