

A tribute and an introduction

John Bailey

John Bailey retired from the position of Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Plant Pathology (EJPP) on May 31st 2004 after more than five years of service. It is therefore timely that I should express the gratitude of everybody who is currently involved with the editing, production and publishing of the journal. John has earned the deep respect of us all and his diplomatic skills in dealing with authors and editors alike will be greatly missed. Under John's stewardship the SCI impact factor has risen to a current 1.475, the highest in the history of EJPP. In addition John has presided over the production of four special issues of EJPP, the latest having 250 pages in two volumes and published in June 2004. These special issues are also published in an attractive hard-back book format. In addition the number of pages of the journal has increased during John's term of office. It only remains for me to say that as Deputy Editor-in-Chief, it has been a pleasure working with John and I hope that EJPP can now build for the future on the firm base that John has laid down.

Mike Cooke

I would like to introduce myself as the new Editor-in-Chief of EJPP as from June 1st 2004. I feel greatly honoured that I have been asked by EFPP and KNPV to take over this prestigious position. I was educated at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK where I obtained my BSc in Agricultural Botany and PhD in Septoria diseases of wheat before taking up a lectureship at the University of Wales, Cardiff, UK. I then moved to University College Dublin, Ireland where I am currently the Associate Professor of Plant Pathology. My plant pathology interests are broad but I am especially interested in necrotrophic fungal pathogens of cereals, and our research group is currently involved with Fusarium diseases of cereals. I joined the editorial board of EJPP in 1994 under the Chief Editorship of Bob Schippers. I can say that I have found membership of the editorial board to be a rich and rewarding experience. I am confident that the future for EJPP is bright and in the coming months I hope to introduce a number of changes and to appoint new members of the editorial board. The future of the journal lies not only in the hands of the Editor-in-Chief but in the hands of everybody concerned with the editing and production of the journal. The quick turn around time for submitted manuscripts depends as much on editors as on the excellent secretarial support which we all receive from the Kluwer journals editorial office, and I would particularly like to mention Ellen Klink, Paula Sonneveld, Anneke Zoutendijk, Zuzana Bernhart, and Ineke Ravesloot all of whom are invaluable in the efficient production process. I hope that with everybody's support the next five years will be equally if not more successful than the five years we have just experienced.

Mike Cooke
Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Plant Pathology