

Editorial

The international European Journal of Plant Pathology evolved from the Netherlands Journal of Plant Pathology in 1994 under the affiliation of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology. It has achieved great success under the leadership of Dr Bob Schippers, who was its first Editor in Chief. This success is clear from an increase in the number of issues, from six in 1994 and 1995 to nine thereafter. The influence of the Journal has also increased as evident from an Impact Factor (SCI Journal Citation Reports) that has more than doubled, rising from less than 0.05 in 1995 to 1.027 in 1998. Much of this progress has been achieved through the quality of papers published and many thanks are expressed to all the scientists throughout the world who have submitted their papers to EJPP. In addition, both the leadership provided by Bob Schippers and the support from our Editors and the staff in the Editorial Office of Kluwer Academic Publishers in Dordrecht have been immense. The Journal have also benefited greatly from the support of all those who have acted as referees. Their advice is essential and without it no journal could be effective. I hope to acknowledge the contribution of all referees at the end of each year.

It was thus without hesitation that I accepted the invitation to succeed Bob when he retired last year. I took over responsibility for new papers from October 1998 and assumed complete responsibility in January this year. At times like this changes are inevitable and in addition to Bob retiring, two other members of the Editorial Board left at the end of 1998: Drs Claude Alabouvette and Dirk Scheel. We are very grateful for their support during the last few years. Several new members have been appointed to the Board: Drs P. Lemanceau (Germany), T. Nuernberger (Germany), C.M.J. Pieterse (the Netherlands) and A.-M. Tronsmo (Norway). These appointments were made to replace some of the expertise of those who have left, but also to strengthen the Journal's ability to publish papers in newly developing aspects of plant pathology, especially those with a greater molecular content, whether associated with studies of the molecular basis of disease resistance, pathogen diversity and taxonomy or applications in epidemiology and pesticide resistance. Perhaps my own experience of mechanisms of pathogen infection and plant resistance, and my enthusiasm for the genus *Colletotrichum* and parasitic plants will also be an asset to the Journal. Professor Mike Cooke has agreed to act as my Deputy when I am not available.

The European Journal of Plant Pathology publishes Research Papers, Short communications and Mini reviews. The work of the Editorial Office ensures that the flow of papers is closely monitored and every step is taken to ensure that papers are published quickly. As Editor in Chief, I will reduce the publication time whenever possible. One point is, however, worth emphasising. Good well written manuscripts are published very much more quickly than all others! Such papers are welcomed by referees, who respond promptly to requests for reports. Papers that are not well presented and may be difficult to understand are often, perhaps understandably, treated less enthusiastically. My plea therefore is for authors to submit clearly written and well presented papers.

Finally, I welcome any comments about the Journal and particularly ask that pathologists with ideas about Mini reviews should contact me.

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