

## Editorial

# Over the hurdles of 2000

*FEBS Letters* has undergone an organizational change during the year 2000. The Editorial Office in Heidelberg has started the coordination and distribution of all submitted manuscripts. However, as before, the members of the Editorial Board still carry out the scientific handling and evaluation of submitted papers. The acting Editors are experts in a broad area of biochemistry, biophysics and molecular cell biology. Their expertise guarantees the journal's ability to provide high quality reviewing in widely different scientific areas. Two Editors will retire from the Board at the end of this year. I wish to heartily thank Shmuel Shaltiel and Shozo Yamamoto for their long-standing work on the Editorial Board. Two new Editors will join the Board in January 2001. They are Judit Ovadi (Budapest) and Richard Marais (London).

The submission rate of papers is approaching 3500 this year. The organizational changes have increased the overall rejection rate such that only one out of three submitted papers appears in print. Consequently, *FEBS Letters* will publish about 1100 papers this year. We have opened a new section called 'Correspondence' for short letters that can illustrate an important point using one figure or table, and five references. This section also allows the presentation of critical comments and discussion in research areas of current general interest.

The Editorial Office is interested in publishing more short reviews and special issues. Minireviews should be related to recent scientific developments and new findings. In 2000, three special issues were published. One was devoted to the annual FEBS/IUBMB Meeting, which took place in Birmingham. The other two consisted of manuscripts focused on 'Functional Genomics', and the 'Genolevares-Genomic Exploration of the Hemiascomycetes Yeasts'. Connie Lee in the Editorial

Office is in charge of reviews and special issues. The authors who wish to contribute to these sections should contact her.

*FEBS Letters* offers a fast publication route for short papers that merit urgent publication due to their generally interesting content and solid science. The print version of the paper is published in less than one month after acceptance. The papers appear 'in press' as preprints on the *FEBS Letters* web site (<http://www.elsevier.nl/febs/show/>) within a week from the day of acceptance. Our publisher, Elsevier, has recently created a system for electronic submission of papers. This electronic submission will further speed up the reviewing and production process at *FEBS Letters*.

Criteria for acceptance in *FEBS Letters* assume that a paper will have an immediate impact on scientific research. To recognize this fact, we have now established a new prize in collaboration with Elsevier. This prize carries the name of Giorgio Semenza, the previous Managing Editor of *FEBS Letters*. The Semenza Prize is given to a Research Letter published in a regular issue of the journal that has the highest impact within 18 months after its publication. At the end of 2000, we can therefore award the prize to a paper published in 1998. The winner is shown below. Congratulations!

The instructions to authors have been thoroughly revised. The new 'Notes to Authors' appear at the end of this issue and include instructions for electronic submission.

I wish you a Happy 2001.

Matti Saraste

### Semenza prize 2000:

The winners of the prize are Masato Hasegawa, Michael J. Smith and Michel Goedert (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK) who published the paper 'Tau proteins with FTDP-17 mutations have a reduced ability to promote microtubule assembly' in the October 23rd, 1998 issue of *FEBS Letters*. This paper has been cited 37 times in 18 months following its publication date.

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