

## Editorial

# Let's Celebrate 10 Years of *Molecular Neurobiology*

Neuroscience research is creating knowledge that is bringing biology, medicine, and behavioral sciences to a new frontier: the understanding of the human central and peripheral nervous system, including its function, and of neurobiological and psychiatric diseases. A major force of progress has been the application of molecular biological approaches. When, early in 1987, *Molecular Neurobiology* was initiated, we thought that bringing a new journal into the world required "explanation and justification" (Bazan and U'Pritchard, 1987) to our colleagues. Today, we are pleased to see that the growth and development of *Molecular Neurobiology* has been very rewarding.

The aim and philosophy of *Molecular Neurobiology*, "to act as a forum for intensive, in depth and critical review of the field.....to keep pace with.....rapid advances," and to be inclusive in the coverage of subjects "oriented towards providing up-to-date understanding at the molecular level of all biochemical and physiological processes relevant to nervous system function and disease," has proven successful because of its wide acceptance and outstanding contributions. The rapid expansion of the field of *Molecular Neurobiology* during the past decade subsequently led to a change in 1994 to a bimonthly schedule.

We began *Molecular Neurobiology* recognizing the need to have available a synthesis of current knowledge in the molecular neurosciences more frequently than yearly reviews afford. Since then, other journals have also begun similar approaches. During this time, *Molecular Neurobiology* has maintained its high

standards. Manuscripts (mostly invited) are thoroughly reviewed by outside referees and by members of the board.

In the immediate future, we intend to continue to encourage minireviews and, above all, to integrate and synthesize knowledge with emphasis on molecular neurosciences. We would also like to emphasize molecular mechanisms of disease, as well as novel therapeutic strategies tackling neurodegenerative diseases. *Molecular Neurobiology* is very flexible about the style of presentation, organization, and illustration of its reviews. Our main criterion is quality.

As *Molecular Neurobiology* moves into the new century, we will strive to maintain standards of excellence. We hope to see the journal continue to grow in prestige, to involve younger investigators as writers and as members of the Board, and to give our readership a sense of where molecular neurobiology is going/should go during the first few years of the next century. One of the most significant challenges to humankind is to understand the function of the brain—the center of thought, will, emotion, and of the accumulation of knowledge. The neurosciences truly deal with the last frontier of human knowledge—understanding how the brain functions and how the diseases that affect it evolve. To this end, *Molecular Neurobiology* will continue to publish important advances in neuroscience in a critical, coherent fashion.

Undoubtedly, part of the success of *Molecular Neurobiology* has been the support and encouragement of Thomas Lanigan, President of

Humana Press, as well as each one of the founding Editorial Board members. As we honor the tenth anniversary of the Journal, we acknowledge the loss of two important members, Edward Herbert (Civelli, 1987) and Ranwel Caputto (Bazan, 1996). Their commitment to both molecular neurobiology and excellence in research remain exemplars to the future direction of the journal.

It has been a joy to assemble this special issue to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Molecular Neurobiology*. Everyone invited to contribute was very enthusiastic to do so, illustrating the deep regard that the contributors, mostly members of the Editorial Board, have for the journal. *Molecular Neurobiology* is at the forefront of molecular brain research today and is committed to continue its synthesis and critical assessment of research trends in this still dramatically developing area. The dedication of the journal to advances in fundamental neurobiology to applications to clinical neuroscience is at the heart of the papers of this issue. Moreover, we are now witnessing the growth of molecular medicine, and so aim to have the Journal at the forefront of clinical molecular neuroscience as well.

*Molecular Neurobiology* will continue to be published on a bimonthly schedule. We are very grateful to the neuroscience community for supporting the journal in the many ways outlined above, support that has maintained the journal at the forefront of high quality, scientific publications. We thank contributors, subscribers, founding members of the Editorial Board, as well as new members, for their support of *Molecular Neurobiology*. Let's celebrate with this outstanding special issue at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in New Orleans. What a wonderful occasion to celebrate in New Orleans!

**Nicolas G. Bazan**  
**Jacques Mallet**

Bazan N. G. and U'Pritchard D. (1987) Editorial. *Molecular Neurobiology* **1**, 1-2.

Bazan N. G. (1996) Ranwel Caputto (January 1, 1914-April 19, 1994). A life of commitment to science. *Molecular Neurobiology* **12**, i-iii.

Civelli O. (1987) Edward Herbert. *Molecular Neurobiology* **1**, 393,394.