

A new beginning: Building on the past, looking to the future



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Starting with this issue, we will be assuming stewardship of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (JACI) as co-editors-in-chief. We do this with humility, honor, challenge, passion, vision, and vigor. To quote William Shakespeare: "To business that we love we rise betimes, and go to't with delight."

We follow a rich tradition of editors-in-chief (EICs) beginning in 1928, each of whom contributed to the steady growth and evolution of JACI. We pay tribute to their service on the cover of this issue. Zuhair, in particular, is honored to be following in the footsteps of his mentor, Dr Phillip Norman, who served as EIC from 1993 to 1998. We would like to especially recognize and thank Dr Donald Leung, who ushered JACI into the 21st century. Dr Leung is the second longest serving EIC of the *Journal*, whose service was exceeded only by the founding EIC, Dr Harry Alexander. During Dr Leung's 17 years at the helm, the *Journal* experienced an exponential growth, with its impact factor going from 3.7 to 11.4. More importantly, Donald established JACI as the undisputed number one allergy and clinical immunology journal worldwide.¹ We are also personally grateful to Donald for his mentorship, guidance, and patience during the transition period, ensuring a seamless crossover.

By assuming this position, we acknowledge our duty and responsibility not only to the *Journal*, but also to the specialty at large. Our approach is that JACI is a global journal with a global audience, and thus we will be addressing global issues. The very fact that, for the first time, the *Journal* has 2 EICs, one of whom is based in Europe, reflects our aim to develop a "world journal" that never sleeps. Increasing the number of international associate editors also reflects this commitment. One of our first initiatives after we began the transition process was to send a comprehensive user survey to our readers and authors, trying to identify their perception of our strengths, the areas that need further development, and their suggestions for new features. We had

more than 1400 participants from around the world and used the responses to develop our plan for the future.

The survey responses and the current state of the *Journal* were discussed at an editors' retreat in September 2015. This retreat was attended by the EICs of JACI and the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice*, JACI associate editors, and members of the executive committee of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI). We are happy to report that many original ideas were discussed, some of which are described below. We have an outstanding team that is eager and ready to take JACI to the next level.

An overriding guide for our plans to grow the *Journal* is the strategy of "embrace and engage." We will reach out to all of our constituents by engaging students, teachers, practitioners, and leading scientists on a global scale. The editorial and reviewer boards will be expanded to represent as many geographic areas as possible. Our ultimate goal is to make JACI the 1-stop journal for all aspects of the science, practice, training, and policy of allergy and immunology in the context of the overall health care milieu.

We will adopt a multipronged approach to enhance the *Journal*. We plan to make JACI as author friendly as possible to create an atmosphere that would ideally prompt the authors to think "JACI first." We will do this by minimizing the time from submission to decision as much as logistically possible. We also plan to make the *Journal* as reader friendly as possible. Per the results of the survey, we will introduce graphical abstracts when an article lends itself to such depiction. Every issue of JACI will contain several articles that move the field forward, add an in-depth understanding to a given topic, or have the potential of affecting clinical practice. Such articles will be reviewed in a 2-page synopsis expanding the background, the significance of the findings, and their effect by using as many graphics as possible. In addition, cutting-edge manuscripts will be featured in a 1-minute videocast distilling the essence of the findings.

Our obligation to the specialty will be reflected in several venues. One of our responsibilities is to anticipate future changes in our specialty as to context and content. In doing so, we reviewed the report of the Future of Allergy task force, as well as the Needs Assessment surveys conducted by the AAAAI.² It is clear that the scope of our specialty will be radically changed over the next 5 to 10 years. Therefore, we will be proactive in expanding space allotted to original and review articles discussing emerging topics, therapeutic trends, and policies. We plan to be at the forefront of reporting these trends and interpreting their significance to the subspecialty.

No future is secure or rosy without efforts to foster the growth and education of the next generation. We plan to focus on the development of our trainees and newly graduated physicians. We

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have already started the process, in conjunction with the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice*, of developing a junior reviewer board and a Fellow/Faculty Reviewer Mentorship Program. In collaboration with the Program Directors Assembly, accomplished fellows will be reviewing certain manuscripts under the supervision of their mentors. We are also in the process of finalizing plans for a reviewer cadre of newly minted allergists/immunologists. We plan to foster the education of our trainees by introducing a “Fundamentals of allergy/immunology” series, whereby various topics of the specialty (patterned after the curriculum of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology) will be reviewed by leaders in the field in an overview article.

We are proud to introduce our editorial team, and we thank the associate editors who agreed to stay on to ensure continuity. Our team includes Dr Stan Szefer as deputy editor, and as associate editors, we are joined by Drs Andrea A. Apter, Leonard B. Bacharier, Claus Bachert, Joshua A. Boyce, Robert K. Bush, Raif S. Geha, Kenji Kabashima, Carole Ober, David B. Peden, Harald E. Renz, Marc E. Rothenberg, Hirohisa Saito, and Robert A. Wood. Justin Byrne will remain as our managing editor, Terrie

DuHadway continues as our executive publisher at Elsevier, and Gretchen Leech, Dawn Angel, and Rebecca Horan will return as our editorial assistants. We are delighted to work with such an experienced team, and are grateful to the AAAAI Board of Directors, including President Robert Lemanske, MD; Executive Vice President Thomas Casale, MD; and Associate Executive Director Ms Roberta Slivensky, for their help and intensive collaboration during the transition period.

In closing, our plan follows this quote, which is also ascribed to Shakespeare: “See first that the design is wise and just; that ascertained, pursue it resolutely; do not for one repulse forego the purpose that you resolved to effect.”

We look forward to working together with you in moving our specialty and science forward.

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