The New Editorial Team

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Submitted 23 June 2015; accepted in final form 25 June 2015

I AM BOTH PLEASED AND PRIVILEGED to begin my term as Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. First published in 1898, the American Journal of Physiology is one of the world’s oldest and foremost journals in physiological sciences. For over 100 years the Journal has published some of the most outstanding and influential articles on all aspects of physiological sciences. As Editor-in-Chief I intend to uphold the Journal’s reputation for scientific excellence and rigor.

The new editorial team. I am most fortunate to be working with a team of superb Associate Editors, who bring a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and experience to the Journal. The team includes:

Denise Ney, Ph.D. (Deputy Editor), Professor of Nutritional Sciences, Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Denise studies the mechanisms and management of phenylketonuria, a genetic disorder caused by deficiency of hepatic phenylalanine hydroxylase.

Michael Camilleri, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Pharmacology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. Michael’s interests include diabetic gastroparesis, appetite regulation and obesity, irritable bowel syndrome and chronic constipation, and bile acid signaling and diarrhea, with a particular interest in personalized medicine.

Andy Giraud, Ph.D., Professor and Director of Infection and Immunity, Gastrointestinal Research in Inflammation and Pathology Group, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia. Andy’s laboratory studies signaling mechanisms of chronic inflammation and cancer in the gastrointestinal tract and how targeted intervention in inflammatory signaling pathways can ameliorate pathological outcomes.

Stephen Pandol, M.D., Director, Basic and Translational Pancreas Research, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles. Steve’s laboratory investigates the molecular and cellular basis of pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, and diabetes.

Charalabos (Harry) Pothoulakis, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Director of Basic Research, UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases. Harry’s research program investigates the role of neuropeptides and their receptors in inflammatory bowel disease, Clostridium difficile infection, and irritable bowel syndrome.

Detlef Schuppan, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Director of Molecular and Translational Medicine, Mainz University Medical Center, Germany. Detlef’s research focuses on the molecular and cellular mechanisms of hepatic inflammation, fibrogenesis, and the role of fibrosis in hepatic cancer.

Natalie Török, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, UC Davis. Natalie studies mechanisms of chronic liver disease, including fibrogenesis, hepatitis, and cholestatic diseases.

Natalie Vergnolle, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Centre de Pathophysiologie de Toulouse Purpan, Toulouse, France. Natalie’s laboratory studies the role of proteases in digestive disease, with a particular interest in protease-evoked inflammation and the mechanisms and pathways of protease-mediated visceral pain.

Collectively, the team has expertise in molecular, cellular, integrative, and translational studies of all aspects of gastrointestinal, liver, and pancreatic physiology and disease. I am particularly indebted to Denise Ney, Andy Giraud, and Detlef Schuppan, who have agreed to complete another term as Associate Editors. Their experience will be invaluable. Our new Associate Editors, Michael Camilleri, Harry Pothoulakis, Natalie Török, and Natalie Vergnolle, bring fresh ideas and vitality to the editorial team. I am also delighted that Josh Robbs has agreed to stay on as our editorial assistant. His knowledge and efficiency will help our transition and maintain our reputation for fast and efficient manuscript handling and review.

Thanks to the outgoing editorial team. I thank the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Pauline Kay Lund, and Associate Editors David Adams, Claudio Fiocchi, Craig Logsdon, Karmam Murthy, and Terez Shea-Donohue for their outstanding contributions to the Journal. Several of their contributions merit particular attention. Under Kay’s leadership the Journal has maintained its reputation for scientific excellence and rigor, with a fast, fair, and transparent review process. It continues to publish influential and high-impact papers, and the Journal’s impact factor continues to rise. The Journal has maintained submissions during a challenging period of diminished research funding, with successful Calls for Papers and increasing submissions in Physiology and GI Cancer, Intestinal Stem Cells in GI Physiology and Disease, and Innovative and Emerging Technologies in GI Physiology and Disease. Collections of Themes articles have been particularly useful to readers, including Themes on Animal Models of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases and Chemoprevention in Gastrointestinal Physiology and Disease (2014), Irritable Bowel Syndrome (2012), and Fibrosis and Gastrointestinal Inflammation (2011). Kay has been especially successful in engaging young investigators with the Journal. She initiated Young Investigator Perspectives articles, recruited more young investigators to the Editorial Board, and directly connected with young investigators to assist with manuscript revisions. Kay has always been fast and responsive, assisting Associate Editors with thorny problems and tricky reviews. Her advice to me has been an invaluable as I prepared to take on the leadership of the Journal. Kay and her team leave the Journal in great shape and deserve thanks from the community of physiological scientists.

The editorial board. The Editorial Board merits particular thanks. Comprised of scientists from around the world, the Editorial Board has the challenging job of evaluating all submitted manuscripts. I thank all past members of the Editorial Board for their willingness to take on this difficult task and...
for their rapid and detailed evaluation of manuscripts. I also welcome new and reappointed members of the Editorial Board. The Editorial Board makes a vital contribution to maintaining the scientific excellence of the Journal.

New priorities and initiatives. What are my priorities for my term as Editor-in-Chief? Simply put, the editors intend that the American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology is the journal of first choice for publication of outstanding, high-impact manuscripts in all aspects of gastrointestinal, liver, and pancreatic physiology and disease. Our specific aims are to

- Publish outstanding, high-impact manuscripts that represent a major advance in our understanding of gastrointestinal, liver, and pancreatic physiology and pathophysiology.
- Publish papers that use molecular, cellular, whole animal, and translational approaches.
- Prioritize mechanistic studies that use cutting-edge experimental approaches.
- Publish papers in established areas and ones of emerging importance, as reflected by our new categories. Our new categories include Epithelial Biology and Secretion; Neurogastroenterology and Motility; Hormones, Neurotransmitters, Growth Factors, Receptors, and Signaling; Stem Cells, Tissue Engineering, Development, and Cancer; Liver and Biliary Tract Physiology/Pathophysiology; Pancreatic Physiology/Pathophysiology; Inflammation, Immunity, and Infection; Microbiome and Host Interactions; Nutrient Sensing, Nutrition, and Metabolism; Systems Biology; and Translational Human Pathophysiology.
- Ensure that the Journal identifies and publicizes new and emerging themes in all aspects of gastrointestinal, liver, and pancreatic physiology and disease. We will promote new and emerging areas through calls for papers. Our current Calls for Papers are in the new categories of Stem Cells, Tissue Engineering, Development, and Cancer; Microbiome and Host Interactions; Nutrient Sensing, Nutrition, and Metabolism; Systems Biology; and Translational Human Pathophysiology.
- Introduce new article types, including Rapid Reports and Mini-Reviews. Rapid Reports will be short papers describing findings of exceptional potential importance. Mini-Reviews will be concise, punchy, and up-to-the-minute summaries of critically important areas of physiology. Further details of these new article types will be provided on the webpage.
- Maintain a rapid, fair, and transparent review process. We will aim to complete initial review of manuscripts within 21 days and revisions within 10 days of receipt. Rapid Reports will be handled even sooner, with initial reviews within 10 days. Associate Editors will provide clear guidance about revision of manuscripts.
- Continue to engage the Journal with the next generation of scientists, including students, trainees, and junior investigators through membership of the Editorial Board and Young Investigator Perspectives.
- Ensure representation of publications from the diverse community of researchers within the American Physiological Society, and the national and international community of scientists.
- Work closely with the American Physiological Society to develop and promote conferences and symposia. Proceedings will be collected as themed issues of Mini-Reviews.
- Identify, publicize, and promote the best papers. The Associate Editors will identify the “Paper of the Month” and “Paper of the Year,” which will be the subject of an Editorial Focus and Podcast and promoted on social media.
- Maintain an open and active dialogue with our authors and readers. The Journal exists to serve our authors and readers. We are pleased to engage with authors at any stage of the submission and review process. We encourage and welcome correspondence from our readers, including suggestions for reviews and articles.

Publishing in the American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. I still remember the thrill of publishing my first paper in American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology in 1984. I was a post-doctoral fellow in John Walsh’s laboratory at UCLA, and the paper concerned the metabolism of neurotensin in extracellular fluid. This was one of my first papers. The review was rapid, detailed, and helpful, and I was fortunate that it required only minor revision. Upon acceptance, I had a sense of deep satisfaction and pride. Last month, over 30 years after this publication, I received the reviews of the most recent manuscript that I have submitted to the American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology. This manuscript, which concerns the link between trafficking and signaling of neuropeptide receptors in enteric neurons, also received the same type of speedy, detailed, and constructive review. I know that if my revised manuscript is accepted for publication I will experience again this sense of satisfaction. I am pleased that the editorial excellence of the Journal has been maintained. Please send us your best work. We will do our best to ensure a rapid, detailed, and constructive review.

DISCLOSURES

Research in Nigel Bunnett’s laboratory is supported in part by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

N.W.B. drafted, revised, and approved final version of manuscript.