There are a hundred reasons to love the JCI and I have loved it truly, madly, and deeply for the last nine years. Alas, I’ll have to learn to love the Journal from afar, as tomorrow marks my last official day as Executive Editor. To quote Chaucer, “There is an end to everything, to good things as well.”

Dearest JCI, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways. I love that our readers can actually believe what we print: we maintain standards of the highest integrity during the evaluation phase, and all our figures are checked thoroughly once accepted. I love that the JCI is unique in bringing together (physically, once a week) a dedicated group of practicing scientists who have a deep understanding of the actual science and an ability to parse through referee reports. I love that the metric we have used for evaluating papers isn’t based on the terms hot or sexy, but rather on actual clinical, therapeutic, and mechanistic merit. I love that the potential effect on our impact factor has never been the driving force for the consideration of a manuscript. But mostly, I love this journal for the people who have made this the best job in biomedical science.

I was a young manuscript editor at Nature Medicine when I met Andy Marks (JCI Editor in Chief, 2002–2007) at a 2003 Keystone meeting. I thought I was a postdoc for half our dinner with mutual colleagues, but happily, I made a good enough impression that two weeks after the conference, I was interviewing for this position. Working with Andy for four of the five years when the JCI was based at Columbia was a dream — those of you who know Andy or have read his articles and editorials know that Andy is a man of conviction who sees things as either black or white. I feel many of my editorial decisions would have been subjects of my more recent predilection to turn embarrassing photos into fake JCI covers (some of you should be glad I do not have a blog). Regardless, it is my great hope to keep up the friendships I’ve made over these years.

Happily, I’ll be staying on at the JCI as an Editor at Large, since I can’t quite cut the cord completely. My next position as Director of the Office of the President of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center will also keep me involved in biomedical science and policy. And those of you who have known me to be tenacious as an editor will find that I will be equally tenacious as a friend — you’ll not see the back of me just yet.

Usha S. Neill, Executive Editor/ Editor at Large