A change in editorship

The preeminence and storied history of the Journal of Clinical Investigation are the product of continuous effort and excellence exemplified by the prior editorial groups and the dedicated editorial staff. There is no better example than the group from Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill led by Howard Rockman, whose tenure has been characterized by excellence and innovation. We sincerely thank him and hope to emulate and expand on the successes of Dr. Rockman and his superb editorial team. They are the most recent in a nearly century-long line of leaders who have continued to renew and build on their predecessors’ legacies of distinction of the journal.

What do we hope to accomplish in our editorial term? The major priority is the continued communication of world-class clinically directed fundamental science and cultivating novel ways to transmit this information. We will work with the ASCI leadership to develop the most efficient model for publishing and disseminating the JCI. As the Journal is a publication of the ASCI, it is important that we use the platform to support the mission of the Society and its foundational goals.

In 1909, the ASCI was born as the brainchild of Samuel J. Meltzer, a new society designed to encourage medical research by physicians engaged in the practice of medicine (1). A charge of Meltzer’s opening address of the first scientific meeting was to devise new scientific methods to meet the challenges of the contemporary problems in clinical research. In his address, Meltzer codified the role of the physician-scientist. Today, our vision is to enhance the preeminence of the JCI and its role in the mission of the ASCI to accelerate the distribution of scientific information to advance our understanding of disease and ultimately improve the lives of patients. This vision derives from a core commitment to the development of physician-scientists and their mission to improve human health. In this context, we believe the JCI should promote transmission of clinically directed fundamental science and serve as an interactive forum to discuss science and promote networking among colleagues in the field.

Arguably my most important task as Editor is the selection of the Editorial Board. We have assembled an extraordinary and accomplished group of Associate Editors from Johns Hopkins, to complement the outstanding editorial staff of the journals. The editorial group has the expertise to cover the breadth of science submitted to the journal and the innovative spirit required to assess the quality and importance of emerging areas. The Associate Editors will have autonomy in editorial decisions and responsibilities, including the evaluation of new and existing content, the Editorial Board, reviewers, and Journal operations. They will serve as the advocates for their scientific disciplines in the Editorial Board meetings and as advocates for the Journal and the Society. The composition of the Board will be nimble and adapt to the changes in science and submissions to the Journal.

A central goal of our editorial group is support of the ASCI. There are a number of opportunities for the journal to accomplish this objective. Fundamentally we aim to reinvigorate the original charge that catalyzed the creation of the Society — the joy of the hunt and discovery of new knowledge.

We wish to highlight the societal importance of work in the biomedical sciences. Importantly, we want to further engage ASCI members as well as physician-scientists in training. In this spirit, we will have MD-PhD student members of the Editorial Board; their role will be not only to help vet the science but, as importantly, to weigh in on platforms for delivery of the Journals and ancillary features.

The sine qua non of a JCI paper is that it changes the way we think about a problem in human biology and medicine. Achieving this goal requires a spectrum of approaches and data sources, such as simulation, molecular and cellular studies, animal models, and human data, in both individuals and populations. The most important drivers of content are the rigor and innovation of the science in clinically relevant biomedical studies of broad importance. The JCI has been distinguished by its publications in original science, clinical medicine, reviews and review series, and commentaries. We will build on the strengths of these components and expand the range of commentaries that put the original science in context. Commentaries have traditionally been authored by academic researchers in the field. We will continue to ask clinical investigators to comment on more basic work and basic scientists to comment on clinical studies, as well as seeking insights from scientists working in unrelated or complementary areas. We will commission commentaries from non-traditional sources, such as representatives from government weighing in on aspects of funding and policy and industry leaders discussing the commercial impact the science. We hope commentaries from a variety of sectors will illuminate the general societal impact of biomedical science and contribute to the growth of support of science at the grass roots. We will use online surveys of readership and membership to continually assess relevance and utility of Journal features.

A traditional strength of the JCI is the review process, which we are committed to continuing. The initial reviews will be performed by experts in the field with considerable experience as reviewers. We will endeavor to ensure that reviews will be rig-
EDITORIAL

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