The World Community of Physiology . . . On Our Third Anniversary

This issue marks the third anniversary of Physiology, the journal. Anniversaries can mark a time to reflect, to review missions, and to assess progress. Our goal has been, and remains, to establish an outstanding journal that publishes short reviews and related items that document the exciting progress in the discipline of physiology. We also hope that Physiology becomes the natural home for those who consider themselves physiologists . . . or those who may not realize that they are physiologists but who are nonetheless interested in the subject! I believe we have established the groundwork for achieving these goals, and I welcome your comments on how we might better serve your needs.

Of course, the “your” in the preceding sentence refers to people across the globe. Although plate tectonics divided the Earth’s surface into continents, and humans have further subdivided it into countries and then various universities and research institutes, the world of physiology is in fact rather seamless. As I sit in my office in New Haven, Connecticut and ponder my scientific collaborations, I realize that my colleagues are truly part of a global community. To be sure, these colleagues include an incredibly valuable core at my home institution (Yale University). However, for the sake of maintaining breadth, one institution cannot afford to have too high a concentration of people with my specific interests (i.e., acid-base homeostasis and gas channels). Fortunately, people with these interests are in Oslo (Norway), Aarhus (Denmark), Hannover and Jena (Germany), and Paris (France), as well as San Diego (California), Champagne-Urbana (Illinois), and Columbia (Missouri). Thanks to telephones, e-mail, and express courier services—not to mention the occasional use of jet aircraft—collaborations flourish around at least part of the globe, not just for me, but for thousands of investigators.

The same is true for Physiology. We are unique in the world of scientific publishing in that Physiology is under the joint auspices of both the American Physiological Society and the International Union of Physiological Societies. One Associate Editor resides in New Haven and the other in München. Although our Special Advisor has an American address, he still has the hint of a Viennese accent. Our Editorial Coordinator also speaks with an accent (she’s from Boston). Physiology’s Editorial Board is international, as are its annual meetings (most recently held in Vancouver, Phoenix, and Vienna). During the past three years, we have published 141 articles, 61 from institutions outside of the United States and 80 from within. So, like our research efforts, the reviews summarizing our progress in Physiology are truly international.

I am thankful for the opportunity and the challenge of helping to create Physiology. I thank Associate Editors Michael Caplan and Ulrich Pohl, Special Advisor Gerhard Giebisch, and a distinguished Editorial Board for committing their time, effort, and creativity. Ole Petersen and Akimichi Kaneko have done a wonderful job keeping us abreast of the activities of the IUPS. Patrick Lane and Kelly Paralis Keenan, at Penumbra Design, have created beautiful artwork. We all thank Charleen Bertolini and the APS staff for making each issue of Physiology a reality. For my part, I look forward to many more anniversaries with my international host of colleagues.