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EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume Two of Genes and Immunity!

Genes and Immunity is now at the first issue of Volume Two. Volume One was a success, although it had a low profile. This is about to change dramatically however, since *Genes and Immunity* was accepted for listing by Medline in November 2000 and will be appearing in Pubmed very shortly; it is already listed by ISI ('Web of Science') and Ingenta. So, when you publish a paper in *Genes and Immunity*, you can be sure that it will reach the widest audience possible. Furthermore, the first impact factor for *Genes and Immunity* is already being calculated, a good milestone for the success of the journal, at the beginning of its second volume.

Even though Volume One lacked this important visibility, papers from *Genes and Immunity* were cited in *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, *Human Molecular Genetics*, *Immunology Today*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Science*, *Journal of Rheumatology*, *Journal of Periodontal Research*, *Transplantation*, *Tissue Antigens*, *Rheumatology*, *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, *Carcinogenesis*, *Immunogenetics*, *American Journal of Human Genetics*, *British Journal of Cancer*, *Scandinavian Journal of Immunology*, *Journal of Infectious Diseases* and *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, amongst others. We like to think that this reflects the quality of the papers we published in Volume One and the target we have to exceed in the future.

As with most new ventures, *Genes and Immunity* has experienced some growing pains since its inception just over 1 year ago. Attracting important scientific contributions, developing visibility and readership poses an almost circular problem for a new journal. However, during the first year, we have made strides in the right direction. The number of high-quality submissions has increased rather dramatically and we believe that the journal is now poised to position itself as a first-line choice for investigators studying the functional genetics of the immune system and immunological disease. The journal has become part of the Nature Group of Publications, a change that has increased both our visibility and image.

During our first year we have strived to attract strong contributions to the field and achieve a rapid yet thorough review process. Our track record for manuscript review and publication compares favorably with most other journals, a tribute to the hard work of the editorial board, members of the scientific community and our publisher. Manuscripts that are received electronically as '.pdf' files are reviewed particularly rapidly—usually within 3 weeks. All manuscripts are subjected to rigorous review by at least two, more often three, experts and just over 30% of manuscripts received are rejected.

The journal has published manuscripts ranging from linkage studies in autoimmune diseases, the definition of disease-associated allelic variants, the characterization of population specific and ancestral haplotypes of immunological genes, to the identification of novel immune system genes and transcriptional regulation and promoter analyses of critical inflammatory mediators of disease. The published studies have included the linkage analysis and examination of specific candidate genes in rheumatoid arthritis,[1–4] systemic lupus erythematosus,[5–10] ankylosing spondylitis,[11] type 1 diabetes,[12,13] Crohn's disease,[14–17] multiple sclerosis,[18–23] asthma,[24,25] infectious disease[26–32] and other conditions.[33–39] Importantly, we have succeeded in attracting important new structural and functional studies of a genetic and genomic nature.[40–48] Other studies have included the characterization of new immunologically important genes, including the initial identification and description of a novel cytokine, IL19.[49–51]

The journal has also published timely reviews of specific fields of emerging interest to immunogeneticists. These have included reviews of the genetics of CTLA4, the advances in approaching gene therapy in rheumatic disease, progress in genetic engineering of vaccines against mucosally-acquired infection and new insight into the genetics of bone marrow transplantation.[52–55] We have also published a comprehensive review of cytokine gene polymorphism that have been associated or linked with human or model organism disease.[56] Future reviews will expand these and other topics. Finally, the journal has published a number of descriptions of novel genetic markers and allelic associations which have opened up new immunological genes to genetic analysis.[57–68]

As editors, we are pleased with the progress the journal has made and with the start of the second volume look forward to both the expansion of the number as well as increase in quality of the manuscripts that will be published. We anticipate that the number of published pages will increase by nearly 25% for the second volume. The journal will continue to move towards comprehensive studies examining sequence/function relationships and the identification of sequence variations that affect susceptibility to immunologically-mediated disease. While examination of ancestral haplotypic and population variation will continue to be of substantial interest, functional genomic studies are likely to emerge as technologic advances in gene expression arrays become widely implemented.

So, we believe that we have succeeded in launching a new journal into the competitive field of functional immunogenetics and now wish to build on this initial success. We hope that as you look back on Volume One and forward into Volume Two and beyond, you will find papers of interest and become persuaded that *Genes and*

Immunity is worthy of your attention as a primary information source.

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