

EDITORIAL

In the new year

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The year 2010 will be remembered as a year of steady progress for the *Journal of Human Genetics* (JHG). We could see positive results from the changes and developments that JHG underwent in 2009 with our new partner Nature Publishing Group. Not only did we see increases in the number of submissions (+40% compared with last year) and increases in usage, we also witnessed the quality of submitted papers getting better than ever before. We are very pleased to see these changes and improvements.

In response to the considerable increase in submissions, we now need to expand the journal's editorial board. In particular, we need to expand the board of associate editors to handle the larger number of papers that need peer review, and to avoid taking too long time to process and judge each manuscript. Our main aim is to maintain and even improve the current 'speed' and 'quality' in judging and publishing papers, while attracting more papers from all parts of the world.

I am also proud that we were able to start publishing commentary articles in 2010. Commentaries are solicited to introduce the research or topics that are dealt with in other articles in the journal from a third person's viewpoint. I believe that these commentaries add another dimension to the journal, providing readers with a good introduction to the topics discussed and enhancing the impact of the articles that are being commented on. Although we are yet to establish a workflow to enable the regular publication of commentary papers,

I am confident that the number of commentary papers will also increase, and that this will prove to be a very important section in JHG in near future. I hope readers have fun reading JHG's commentary articles.

These improvements that we have seen throughout the last year, together with the changes we are still working on, should form solid ground for the JHG to stand on. From here, on this ground, we would like to build the journal's new, successful profile. With the Associate Editors and Editorial Board members, and together with the authors and readers, I am committed to continue to work hard and serve readers better by providing an important and authoritative source of information and an exciting forum for scientific communication.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Katsushi Tokunaga
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Human Genetics

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