

EDITORIAL

New year wish and updates

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Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very happy, prosperous new year.

In 2011, the 3rd year of *Hypertension Research* in its current format and platform (for online content), we again were kept busy working to further grow this journal. We have focused more on the 'everyday workings' of the journal, trying to be more selective and efficient in reviewing papers, in order to further improve the quality of the content. Some of these improvements have more to do with our work procedures and so may not be very visible to our readers. Herein, I would like to introduce some of these changes that were made in 2011.

Since 2009, the number of submissions to *Hypertension Research* has been increasing and we are trying hard to maintain a constant rate for processing papers to avoid delay. Currently, all received manuscripts are screened by our executive editors, and only papers that pass their check are sent to the responsible Associate Editor for the peer-review process. From the beginning of 2011, we have incorporated a more stringent set of requirements that we apply 'in-house' for newly submitted manuscripts. This has meant that only papers that we judge to be of interest to the community are being sent out for the peer-review process. This has enabled both a reduction in the time for decision and an improvement in the quality of papers being published in HR. We wish to continue this in the coming years, so would ask our reviewers to apply stricter criteria when evaluating the papers.

In 2011, we welcomed Dr Ji-Guang Wang and Dr Chang G Park to the board of Associate Editors. Responding to the increase in submissions from Asian countries, I am glad that we now have these two very distinguished editors representing HR in their regions. I sincerely hope that we'll be able to receive more quality submissions from their territories, as well as from many other countries.

Our 'Review Series' continues to publish collected review articles. In 2011, we solicited high-quality papers in the areas of 'Role of oxidative stress in hypertension and cardiovascular diseases' and 'New aspects of the sympathetic nervous system in hypertension'. Many of these review articles were made available for free online and were widely promoted to draw attention. As a result, they were often found in the monthly 'top 10' most frequently accessed or downloaded articles list. I am sure that the Review Series has contributed significantly to the increase in

readership. Since 2009, the average monthly number of visits to HR website has increased by 60%. I am keen to continue publishing high-quality review articles in this 'Review Series' format. In 2012, we are hoping for feature reviews in

1. Gender difference in hypertension
2. Genetics in hypertension
3. Hypertension and aging

I am sure the review papers in these topics would be well received by the community. I would like to thank the Associate Editors who have helped to plan these Review Series and worked hard to solicit manuscripts.

I should also mention that *Hypertension Research* introduced an Open Access (OA) option from January 2011, and started to offer authors the choice of publishing their papers as an OA article, making it available for free online immediately after it is published. Many journals are now publishing papers with this OA option, and many new 'Full OA' journals are being launched. This is certainly a new model of publishing that has been well received and demanded by the members of the scholarly community, including researchers in hypertension studies.

There are many items on our 'to do' list already for 2012, to further establish HR as a well-respected journal in the community. I would like to spend this year working to get these things done, although continuing to work on incoming manuscripts to make *Hypertension Research* a more mature and sophisticated journal with a truly international standard. I am lucky that I can work with my great colleagues and friends in the editorial board. With their great cooperation and help, I am hoping that we will see some good results from our editorial work at the end of this year.

Finally in closing, I'd like to acknowledge those reviewers who helped us in reading manuscripts and making decisions during 2011. *Hypertension Research* is fully reliant on their expert knowledge and warm support. The following individuals provided reviews of papers submitted to *Hypertension Research* from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011:

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