

EDITORIAL

Looking back, looking forward

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Last year, the *Journal of Human Genetics* (*JHG*) underwent many significant changes. As part of the journal's new publishing agreement with the Nature Publishing Group, *JHG* revised its aims and scope, made changes to article types, introduced a new manuscript submission system and improved the format of the journal. Although the transition to a new publisher was challenging, I am very pleased that the journal continues to run smoothly, with increasing submissions, publishing interesting and informative articles in the field of human genetics.

There were also considerable changes to the Editorial Board in 2009. Having recognized the growing importance of human genetics studies in East and Southeast Asia, we have expanded the board of Associate Editors by appointing four new members from China, Korea and Thailand. I sincerely welcome our new colleagues, Dr Zhan, Dr Chan, Dr Shin and Dr Tongshima, and look forward to working with them to encourage more submissions from their countries. Of course, we continue to welcome papers from other countries as well, and will consider further expansions of the Editorial Board to develop and improve the editorial activities of *JHG*.

With respect to the Editorial Board, I thank Dr Masao Yamada, who recently completed his term, for his many efforts during his 8 years of service.

With this new team, together with reviewers, authors and our new publishing partner, Nature Publishing Group, we are committed to working hard to improve *JHG*. Through these developments, I sincerely believe that *JHG* can better serve readers as an important source of information and an exciting forum for scientific communication.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Katsushi Tokunaga,
Editor-in-Chief

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