



Editorial

GENE was founded in 1976 by Professor Waclaw Szybalski, who guided the journal as Editor-in-Chief for nearly 20 years. In 1996 Professor Giorgio Bernardi replaced Professor Szybalski as Editor-in-Chief for the journal where he remained until December of 2008. I am delighted to follow in the footsteps of Professors Szybalski and Bernardi as Editor-in-Chief of GENE effective January 1st, 2009.

GENE was originally founded shortly after some of the initial breakthroughs in gene cloning during a period of rapid expansion in the field of molecular genetics. During this era many fundamental discoveries involving the structure of genes and genomes were made. Professor Bernardi guided the journal during a second exciting phase of genetics research that brought about the beginning of the field of genomics. In particular, the comparison of genes and genomes to one another ushered in the field of comparative and evolutionary genomics, and led to additional insight into how genes and genomes function, the field now termed functional genomics.

As I assume the role of Editor-in-Chief for the journal, we are at the very beginning of a new wave of excitement in the study of genetics and genomics brought about by the rapid adoption and expansion of second-generation DNA sequencing. New approaches to DNA sequencing will bring about dramatically larger data sets that will address a new range of questions, including personal genomics, which would not have been possible just a few short years ago. As a result, we will

continue to move the journal in the direction initiated by professor Bernardi to stay at the forefront of molecular genetic research, including large-scale studies of genetic variation of all types, which take advantage of these new approaches. As part of this progressive emphasis we will gradually change the current single Editorial Board to a group of Associate Editors with an underlying group of Editorial Board members. These changes in the structure of the journal will be targeted toward the change in scientific focus and with an overall goal of handling papers as rapidly and efficiently as possible.

The journal will continue the tradition, established by its two previous distinguished editors, of publishing ground-breaking research in genetics with a focus on evolutionary and functional genomics. As in the past the journal will continue to handle some thematic issues devoted to specific topics. These issues may be associated with scientific meetings or with special research topics in the area of evolutionary and functional genomics. I am certain that GENE will play an expanded role as an outlet for publishing international research advances in evolutionary and functional genomics into the foreseeable future.

Mark A. Batzer
Editor-in-Chief