

## EDITORIAL

### New Directions for *Experimental Neurology*

With this issue I become editor-in-chief of *Experimental Neurology*. It is a pleasure to assume this role, as I have had a long association with the journal, having published an article in its first volume (Gernandt and Gilman, 1959). I have also served on the editorial board since 1980 and as section editor for Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders since 1997. I have been a member of the editorial board during John Sladek's entire tenure as editor-in-chief, and I have seen him greatly improve the quality of the journal during his 15 years in this role.

Dr. Sladek provided a strong focus for the journal in the area of neural transplantation and neuroscience disciplines relevant to this theme. Indeed, the journal has been a frequent vehicle for the interesting and often highly cited papers published by members of the American Society for Neural Transplantation. In my role as editor-in-chief, I hope to maintain the journal as a site for publishing the very best papers relevant to neural transplantation while simultaneously expanding the areas of interest of the journal to multiple other areas of neuroscience. To this end, we have implemented several changes in the editorial board. We have begun a renewable 3-year term appointment for editorial board members, and initiated a rotation off the board of many previous members with the January 2003 issue. We have also recruited three superb new section editors, Drs. Moses Chao for Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience, Eugene Johnson for Genetic Disorders and Trophic Factors, and Jeffrey Lieberman for Psychiatric Disorders and Substance Abuse. Dr. Johnson's section, previously titled Gene Therapy and Trophic Factors, has been renamed to reflect the scientific area of emphasis of the section. We have eliminated the Neurodegeneration Section, as it was redundant with the Neurological Disorders Section, and are delighted to have recruited the section editor of Neurodegeneration, Dr. Tim Greenamyre, to assume the position of section editor for Neurological Disorders. Each of the new and continuing section editors has assisted the publisher and editor in recruiting new editorial board members to replace those rotating off. We thank all editorial board members, including those remaining and those rotating off, for their excellent service in the interest of this high-quality journal.

Our intention in recruiting several new section editors and in establishing a new section called Psychiatric Disorders and Substance Abuse is to begin implementing the plan to broaden the scope of scientific coverage of the journal. With the recruitment of Dr. Lieberman as section editor of Psychiatric Disorders and Substance Abuse, we hope to bring this journal to the attention of neuroscientists engaged in basic science relevant to psychiatric disorders, which is a growing and extraordinarily important field of neuroscience. Our hope is that by regular rotation of members of the editorial board, we will constantly bring the journal to the attention not only of the section editors but also of the editorial board members, encouraging them and their laboratory associates to consider sending their very best manuscripts to *Experimental Neurology*.

To the end of expanding the scope of coverage of the journal, with this issue we are implementing a new type of paper, one that we will term "Commentaries." Our intention is to recruit senior neuroscientists or neuroscientist/clinicians to write an article commenting on one or more papers published in the current issue of *Experimental Neurology* or in a recent issue of any other journal. Commentaries will be written by invitation and will provide the readership a perspective on the ramifications of the articles discussed. This will give contributors an opportunity to mention their own work as well as the work of others. We hope to point out to the neuroscience community the importance of a particular finding or set of findings, the new direction(s) that this finding may lead us, the areas of science that it opens, and the importance to the clinical practice of medicine (neurology, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, and other fields) that the finding may represent.

In addition to commentaries, we will recruit authors to write editorials, which will provide brief comments on interesting articles in the current issue of the journal. We will also continue the past practices of publishing special issues focused on a particular neuroscience topic and of publishing in-depth reviews of neuroscience areas of current interest.

We intend to shorten the time from submission to publication to the greatest extent possible. Our aim is to notify authors of the outcome of the review of their paper within 6 weeks of the time of submission and to

publish on the Web the full paper within 6 weeks of the time the manuscript is accepted for publication. We also intend to shorten the time to publication in print, and will need the assistance of our authors to accomplish this goal. To this end, we will request that authors respond expeditiously to editorial office requests for reviews of proofs and illustrations, among other tasks. To shorten the time from submission to publication, we encourage all authors to submit manuscripts and illustrations electronically. We will not require this, but we will transmit and review all manuscripts electronically to speed along the review process. We will require that authors provide the names and addresses, including the e-mail addresses, of five potential reviewers for their article and a recommendation regarding the appropriate section editor to review their article. We do not commit to following the authors' requests, however. We are implementing a strict deadline for reviewers to complete their evaluation of sub-

mitted articles. We are fortunate in having a highly professional editorial office in San Diego to assist us in moving the publication process along smoothly and accurately.

I look forward to seeing articles submitted by those who have found *Experimental Neurology* to be the appropriate journal for their scientific area of interest and to seeing also articles submitted by scientists who have never published in this fine journal. I also look forward to seeing the coverage of the journal broaden to the many rapidly moving areas of neuroscience that are ongoing currently.

#### REFERENCES

- Gernandt, B. E., and Gilman, S. 1959. Descending vestibular activity and its modulation by proprioceptive, cerebellar, and reticular influences. *Exp. Neurol.* **1**: 274–304.

*Sid Gilman*