New editorial office

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It is my great pleasure and honour to take over as the Editor of *Journal of General Plant Pathology* as of January 1, 2016. On behalf of the Phytopathological Society of Japan, I extend sincere gratitude to the former editorial team led by Dr. Hisashi Iwai, Kagoshima University, for their tremendous efforts. In keeping with their activities, the new editorial board will take responsibility for maintaining the integrity and further improving the quality of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* during the next 2 years.

The Phytopathological Society of Japan was founded in 1916 to promote phytopathology and disseminate knowledge of plant diseases and their control in Japan. The Society is proud to be one of the oldest leading academic societies in the field of agricultural science in Japan and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015. Through the efforts and dedication of its members, it is today an international society. Part of this internationalization process was the launch of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* in 1996, the main journal of the Phytopathological Society of Japan. It is important to sustain its remarkable history by continuing to improve the journal, fostering and developing the science of plant pathology and related areas by providing information that is accurate, reliable, and beneficial.

The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* covers all areas of plant pathology: plant diseases and their control, including pathogen identification and characterization,

disease physiology and biochemistry, molecular biology, morphology and ultrastructure, genetics, disease transmission, ecology and epidemiology, evolution, chemical and biological control, disease assessment, and other topics relevant to plant pathological disorders. The journal is published every 2 months and welcomes the submission of manuscripts from all areas of plant pathology and related topics.

A new editorial system and publication format of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* was also established over the 10 years. The Journal launched an online submission and tracking system (<https://www.editorialmanage.com/jgpp/>) in April 2007, substantially reducing editorial processing and review time and overall time until publication. In recent years, increases in the number of manuscript submissions and downloaded articles has helped raise its Impact Factor from 0.893 in 2013 to 0.966 in 2014. The Journal is also a member of the Committee on Publication of Ethics (COPE).

We pledge to continue to develop the journal and to further its position as a leading world publication in the field of plant pathology. We cordially invite you to submit your best research papers to the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*.

Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*
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