Editorial

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After being a part of the Springer *Biodegradation* team since the inception of the journal, first as a reviewer and member of the Editorial Board, then a Managing Editor, and the past 5 years as Editor-in-Chief, I am announcing my retirement from the journal after these many years of enjoyable service. After 35 years of research and teaching, I am retiring from academia to pursue other interests. *Biodegradation* has filled a very special niche in the publishing community as a place to publish high-quality papers regarding the fate and transformation of natural and anthropogenic chemicals by pure cultures and consortia of microorganisms. The journal covers everything from the molecular sciences and “omics” to bioengineered systems for treatment of hazardous wastes. I feel I am leaving the journal in a strong position to continue providing this important service to the world’s scientific community. This is especially important in light of humanity’s continuing tendency to insult the natural world with toxins, massive chemical spills, and innumerable industrial

waste streams. I will be leaving the journal in the very good hands of our new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Edward Bouwer, Chair and Abel Wolman Professor of Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Dr Bouwer has extensive experience with microbial process engineering and bioremediation processes. His varied research interests include factors that influence biotransformation of contaminants, bioremediation of contaminated soils and groundwaters, biofilm kinetics, biological processes for wastewater, industrial, and drinking water treatment, and transport and fate of microorganisms in porous media. He has most recently served as a Managing Editor for *Biodegradation*, and he knows our journal well. I wish Dr. Bouwer and all of the *Biodegradation* team worldwide a wonderful, productive future. To those of you who have submitted your best work to *Biodegradation*—thank you! For those of you who have not, there will never be a better time. Best wishes.

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