Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The readers of *Science in China Series C-Life Sciences* will be impressed by its new look starting from the first issue of 2009. This will mark a new stage of development of this journal. *Science in China* (formerly named *Scientia Sinica*) was founded simultaneously with the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1950, serving as the proceedings of the Academy, and has been published for the past 58 years. During that time, many high standard papers have been published in it, to a certain degree reflecting the progress of the scientific research in China. It has become China's most authoritative comprehensive science journal. In 1996 the journal was divided into 7 separately published series. Series C is exclusively focused on the publication of outstanding research papers from the life sciences, reflecting the highest achievements in all facets of life science research.

Entering the 21st century, China's economic and social progress earned international respect, which provided the momentum for a concurrent upgrading of its science and technology. This brought new opportunities and challenges for publishing scientific journals in China. For promoting the more effective publication of the Science in China Series, a new board was recently established, with the president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences serving as the Chairman. *Science in China Series C-Life Sciences* has now formed its new international editorial board, which includes scientists not only from China (including Hong Kong), but also from the USA, the UK, Germany, France, Israel, Austria and Singapore. As the journal's new Editor-in-Chief, I pledge my strongest efforts to raise the stature of the journal to a higher level.

Authors from all over the world are welcome to submit their manuscripts to our journal. Acceptance of papers for publication will be decided after a scrupulously fair peer-review process. The name *Science in China* was chosen for historical reasons and indicates that it is published in China but does not in any sense restrict authorship or readership. Science knows no boundaries, thus *Science in China C-Life Sciences* especially welcomes submissions from researchers in other nations. It is a comprehensive monthly journal publishing both reviews and research articles in all areas of the life sciences, including such primary fields as biological sciences, medical sciences, agriculture and ecology. "Fast, objective and fair" is the goal that we will strive to achieve in editing this journal. Starting from the first issue of 2009, one article will be selected from each issue to be featured as the "cover article", with representative data or images from the article displayed on the cover.

At this new beginning, *Science in China Series C-Life Sciences* highly appreciates the scholarly contributions of authors and readers from all parts of the international research community.

(WANG Da-Cheng)

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