Immunologic Research: Publishing knowledge of the future today!

The first three decades

Julius M. Cruse · Robert E. Lewis

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It has been more than a century (1909–2012) since Paul Ehrlich founded *Die Zeitschrift fuer Immunitaetsforschung und Experimentelle Therapie*, the first journal devoted expressly to research in immunology. During the 100 years since, immunology has undergone a metamorphosis from a medical curiosity associated with vaccination to preeminence as a *real* science. It serves as a common thread that intersects essentially all branches of basic and clinical biomedical science. With the exponential increase in published articles in an expanding array of immunology journals, we recognized the need to provide a synthesis and interpretation of the multiple new research findings by the bench level investigators who discovered them. We anticipated that the reader would gain an overview that is considerably more than a “thumbnail sketch” of topics at the frontier of immunologic research. The premier programs of investigative immunology in both North America and abroad are being featured in institutional volumes of this journal.

In spite of all these advances and the burgeoning information overload, we return to where we began, affirming the basic tenets of immunology, i.e., the distinction of self from not self. Even cells from the primitive sponge prefer their own kind to dissimilar cells, just as organ transplants are rejected by “foreign” hosts in higher organisms. Yet the new knowledge garnered from an avalanche of original articles on investigative immunology

during the past three decades has facilitated understanding of complex molecular interactions in immunological processes.

Always looking ahead, the journal’s mission is to publish “cutting edge” immunologic findings of the future today! Recent improvements include electronic online submission and publication of articles, a large format journal size with free color for articles published online and some in print, increased frequency and number of issues per year, and introduction of novel and innovative premier original research papers. Peer review is rigorously enforced for all articles submitted for publication. The journal’s increased impact factor during the past 30 years reflects the esteem in which it is held in the scientific community.

We express profound gratitude to SPRINGER PUBLISHERS, including our Executive Publisher, Ms. Ky’esha Hammond, and her Staff, Ms. S. Shenbagam, and Mr. Deepan Selvaraj, for their unstinting support, enthusiasm, editor/author support and professionalism. The Main Editors also sincerely thank our editors, authors, and readers whose dedicated efforts have ensured the journal’s success! It is our hope that the trust our colleagues have placed in our stewardship will be rewarded by IMMUNOLOGIC RESEARCH’s attainment of lofty heights of professional achievement as future breakthrough findings are reported in its pages.

J. M. Cruse (✉) · R. E. Lewis
Department of Pathology, University of Mississippi Medical
Center, Jackson, MS, USA
e-mail: jcruse@umc.edu

R. E. Lewis
e-mail: rlewis@umc.edu