INFECTION: ready for continued success

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With this editorial, I would like to conclude my work as Editor-in-Chief of *INFECTION*. It has been a challenging, interesting and rewarding time since I took over the editorial responsibility for the journal from Professor Walter Marget in 1999. Until then, I had been in the role of author, submitting manuscripts to scientific journals. As Editor-in-Chief, I suddenly had the responsibility to assure that submitted manuscripts were guided through all the necessary steps until a decision could be reached. This had to be accomplished as timely and fair as possible. The work for *INFECTION* was also always influenced by the need to select articles for publication that were interesting to our clinician readers and had the potential to be cited by other authors.

During more than a decade as Editor-in-Chief of *INFECTION*, I had the privilege to work with many colleagues—Editors, members of the Editorial Board—that “stayed on board” *INFECTION* with me during the entire time. They read countless manuscripts, wrote reviews, reviewed revisions, offered good advice to authors and shared their thoughts about *INFECTION* during board meetings or phone discussions. I am honoured to have been able to work for so long with so many dedicated colleagues. *INFECTION* would not be where it is now without your hard work and dedication. My sincerest thanks go to you.

In addition to ‘my’ great and experienced team of Editors and Editorial Board members, *INFECTION* also benefited greatly from the willingness of peers to assess and review papers from colleagues. The peer-review

system is a very important element of scientific scrutiny. Journals and editorial boards would be unable to process all the submitted manuscripts in a scientifically solid way without the additional input of peers. Many invitations to perform a peer-review are accepted, but some are declined due to a lack of time. Unfortunately, some colleagues are not returning their review within the agreed time, unnecessarily delaying the decision process for submitted manuscripts. Overall, *INFECTION* has been working very well with numerous reviewers. I would like to thank all of them for their important service to their colleagues.

Finally, my great thanks go to all the dedicated managers and colleagues at Urban & Vogel, later at Springer Verlag. Publishing a medical journal with an ambition to be among the leading journals in infectious diseases is a worthwhile ambition to pursue. I always felt very well supported by the managing editors as well as my editorial assistants. Without you, this work would have been impossible to accomplish. Thank you very much.

After these thoughts about the past of *INFECTION*, it is now time to focus on the future. Professor Johannes Bogner has already taken over the role of Editor-in-Chief. The change from me to him is a good opportunity to think about the current organisation and to perform some adjustments. These adjustments, including the composition of a new team, are in the process of being implemented and will certainly help to assure the continued success of *INFECTION*. I wish Professor Johannes Bogner and *INFECTION* great success in the future and will continue to support him and *INFECTION* as a Section Editor.

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