Foreword

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Published online: 24 January 2012
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The proceedings is entering a new phase in its 82nd Year. It will now be published by Springer to improve dissemination and expeditious processing of the submitted manuscripts. The scientific aspects will continue to be the responsibility of the Academy and the Editorial Board. The proceedings now have on-line submission, refereeing and further processing of the manuscripts resulting in quicker publication and availability to a larger segment of the scientific community. The contributors would be able to monitor continuously the progress of their manuscripts. It should lead to improved impact of the published articles. This has necessitated some changes in the processing the received papers and the format of the Journal. It is appropriate, therefore, that the proceedings gets a new apparel.

The Editorial Board decided to start the new phase by devoting the inaugural issue to a major national health problem. The human viral infections present a challenge because of repeated epidemics, lack of appropriate chemotherapy and rapid genetic changes in the viruses. At the same time rapid diagnostic aids, availability of effective protective vaccines and vector control offer good containment possibilities. The small pox has been eliminated and poliomyelitis may soon be extinct as well. The current issue is therefore devoted to human viral infections which are of concern to the country.

Prof. Asha Mathur, a distinguished virologist and a Fellow of the Academy, kindly agreed to undertake the primary responsibility of organising the issue. She has played the main role in selecting the topics, identifying authors and getting the manuscripts refereed and suitably modified. I thank the authors for accepting our invitation and sticking to the timeframe and format requirements. A comprehensive review of these human viral infections is being published for the first time and should be equally useful to the research workers, health care providers and policy makers.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the entire Editorial Board, our contributors and referees for their cooperation and help. We look forward to their continued support and an increasing number of manuscript submissions by Fellows and Members of the Academy and other investigators. This will help improve the utility as well as the impact of the proceedings. I shall welcome your valuable suggestions for improvement of the journal.

My greetings and best wishes for the new year to all our authors, referees, readers, members of the Editorial Board and the Editorial staff at the Academy.

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