

## Editorial

When I decided to step down as Editor-in-Chief of *Lipids* by the end of this year, it was gratifying to know that I would leave the helm of a journal that is strong and healthy and that has earned the respect of the scientific community. The past ten years as *Lipids* Editor have been both challenging and rewarding. Looking back, I believe, we can be proud of what we accomplished.

To produce a quality scientific journal each month requires the special efforts of many, as well as cooperation and mutual trust. Authors, referees, editors, and production staff must work together and pool their efforts to assure success.

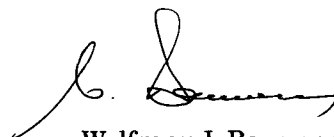
I wish to thank, first of all, our authors who have shown their confidence in our peer review and have submitted some of their most interesting work to our journal. Given an opportunity to further improve their papers after review, most authors have cooperated conscientiously and enthusiastically, and most were not even deterred by green ink.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I wish to specifically acknowledge the input and efforts of the many who served *Lipids* as referees over the years. A first-class journal is dependent on first-class reviewers. We have been fortunate, indeed, as we could count on the cooperation and advice of our many loyal referees, including some of the world's foremost experts in their respective fields. My special thanks to each and every one of them for volunteering their precious time and for letting us benefit from their knowledge and insights.

I also wish to express my appreciation to our Associate Editors for their tireless efforts and their help in keeping manuscripts moving along in the review process, and to the members of the *Lipids* Editorial Advisory Board for their encouragement and advice. I would also like to specifically thank my colleague and friend, Dr. Barbara Malewicz, who has served as Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief and as Index Editor. She kept the lines open to authors, referees and associate editors, and she did it efficiently and with grace. My cordial thanks to Barbara for her dedication, unparalleled hard work, encouragement, and support. She also kept our research program vigorous, thus allowing me to attend to my philanthropic editorial pursuits.

With the exception of the first volume of *Lipids*, which was edited by our Founding Editor, A. Richard Baldwin, all volumes of *Lipids* published since 1967 were edited at The Hormel Institute. With my stepping down as Editor-in-Chief, this 28-year tradition will come to an end. It is thus most appropriate to thank The Hormel Institute and its Board of Directors for making a home for *Lipids* throughout these years and for generously supporting its *Lipids* editors and the journal.

Looking back over the past ten years as *Lipids* Editor, I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed my daily excursions into the many areas of basic lipid science. I also very much cherished my personal contacts with authors, referees and associate editors from around the globe, many of whom I think of now as good friends. Serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Lipids* has been a special privilege, and it has been a most memorable and most rewarding experience. I am looking back with gratitude and pride. I trust I served the scientific community well.



Wolfgang J. Baumann  
Editor-in-Chief