Editorial

Dawning of a New Era at CTI

On November 21, 1999, the academic and research communities were deeply saddened by the demise of Louis V. Avioli, one of the pioneers of bone and mineral research and Editor-in-Chief of this journal. Dr. Avioli's spirit, knowledge, energy and forethoughts were unique, and irreplaceable. For more than 20 years, CTI was Lou's editorial project. In 1978 he assumed the reins of what was then Calcified Tissue Research. He changed its name and nurtured the journal, raising its visibility within the bone and mineral scientific community to become for many years the most widely known periodical in the field.

By all standards, replacing Lou's leadership as Editor-in-Chief of CTI represents a major undertaking. Thus, the changes to CTI's editorial structure truly represent a "Dawning of a New Era". Our readers have already realized that change is afoot from the new cover, a departure from the "old blue" cover. Our readers also know that recently our publisher, Springer-Verlag, and the European Calcified Tissue Society reached an agreement wherein CTI would become the Society's official journal. The new editorship reflects this new European influence as we welcome Prof. Stuart Ralston, the current President of the European Calcified Tissue Society, as one of the three Editors in the new era. Dr. Roberto Civitelli who was at one time a post-doctoral fellow with Lou Avioli, and recently Associate Editor of CTI, and Dr. Keith Hruska, a long time research associate of Lou Avioli and member of the Editorial Board, join Dr. Ralston as Editors. Accordingly, the journal will function in two Editorial Offices; the North American Editorial Office will remain in its current location in St. Louis. The new European Editorial Office will be located in Aberdeen, Scotland. We hope this will facilitate the review process for authors located closer to Great Britain than to St. Louis. Regardless of their geographical location, authors will be free to send their manuscripts to either office at their discretion.

As new Editors of CTI, we have updated the journal's editorial policies, revised the Editorial Board roster, introduced operative changes in the two offices to speed the review process, and look forward to streamlining copyediting and publication. The objective of CTI will be to serve the scientific community interested in bone and calcified tissues with informative, peer-reviewed, and rapid publication of original clinical and laboratory investigations, and offer prospective authors timely critical comments. A solicited short review will open each issue of the journal. Conversion of the journal to on-line publication is in progress, and beginning in July 2000, two or three manuscripts in each issue will be selected for On-Line First publication through Springer-Verlag's Link system, just 6-8 weeks after acceptance (provided the corrections are returned in the time-frame indicated). In 2001, this will become uniform, thus providing a true "fast-track" publication of accepted articles before the paper version of the journal is actually printed. On-line review and copyediting are also in the works and will soon follow; converting the journal to an Internet-based vehicle of scientific communication that we are confident will greatly help our

field. These are heady days in skeletal research and CTI will publish timely accounts of our progress.

With this issue, the revised publication policies of CTI are in force, along with a new Editorial Board. Each member of the Editorial Board will have a fundamental role in the journal's review process and the Editors thank each Board member for agreeing to participate and contribute some of their time to the journal. Board memberships will be for a period of two years. They are renewable on mutual agreement and will be tailored to meet the publication content of the journal.

Last, but certainly not least, the new Editors, along with Springer-Verlag, are pleased to announce a new award in honor of Lou Avioli's editorship. The Louis V. Avioli Best Article Award will be given each year to the manuscript that is judged of the highest quality, among those published in one calendar year, by the Editorial Board. The competition will begin in January 2001, and the awardee will be announced in the December issue each year. Along with the award, a prize of \$5,000 will be offered by Springer-Verlag. This award is our tribute, as heirs of "his" journal, to Lou Avioli, a mentor and role model. We hope that it will contribute to maintaining Lou's image for posterity.

The Editors greet the CTI readership with the best wishes for success, and they look forward to the opportunity to review the community's scientific achievements. We are committed to publish high quality in a timely fashion.

Roberto Civitelli
Keith Hruska
Stuart Ralston