



## From the Editors-in-Chief

### Yet another new scientific journal?

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#### Is a new journal really necessary?

From the point of view of the authors, probably not. For some time there has been no shortage of good journals in which to publish an important, or perhaps not so important, manuscript. At a time in which only the impact factor and citation index count, the tendency of authors is increasingly to publish in well-established, highly ranked journals. This means that for any new journal, it is difficult to find contributors and good manuscripts.

There is, however, another way of looking at the question, and that is from the reader's point of view. A reader with an interest in an important area must acquire and read many journals in order to collect the most relevant information. Readers with an interest in, for example, the broad topic of gastric carcinoma, would therefore be grateful if the most important manuscripts dealing with this area could be found in one single journal. They would no longer need to search through specialty-specific journals for oncology, gastroenterology, surgery, pathology, molecular biology, etc. in order to bring together the important information needed for their work. Instead, in the future they will find information of the highest international standard in the new journal *Gastric Cancer*. Seen from this perspective, the founding of a new journal is entirely rational.

#### How does one achieve the goal of having important authors publish in this journal?

First, one tries to ensure that the journal maintains the highest scientific level possible. The editor and editorial board of our journal guarantee that there will be rigorous scientific review and a thorough selection process at a high standard. We are convinced that quality begets quality. A respected publisher such as Springer-Verlag

guarantees that the appearance of the journal will be of the highest quality. In addition, the journal represents the International Gastric Cancer Association (IGCA). Every important researcher in gastric carcinoma is a member of ICGA and so will be motivated to publish in this journal.

### **How do we reach the appropriate readership?**

The Japanese Gastric Cancer Association, which originated from the renowned Japanese Research Society for Gastric Cancer, is concerned with this task. The association includes all the leading Japanese researchers and clinicians who are working on the problem of gastric carcinoma. In addition, the IGCA is the official sponsor for this journal. All researchers in the organization with an interest in gastric cancer have come together at an international level. Within their ranks, both

associations include the readers with the greatest interest in this area. Thus, these two societies are the fertile soil in which a journal of this type can grow and thrive. In addition, the journal fulfills the important role of giving the members of both of these societies a corporate identity.

Let us return to our opening question. In view of the particular conditions which we have considered, it seems both sensible and advantageous that we should found a new journal, especially since fitting parents are available for this new-born publication. Our long-term goal, the creation of a successful, high-quality journal, will demand the full efforts of everyone involved. Let us dedicate ourselves to this task, with the hope that, with a significant contribution by this journal, the problem of gastric carcinoma will one day be solved and thereby render this journal superfluous.

J. Rüdiger Siewert, Editor-in-Chief