New year's greetings 2019 from the *Journal of Plant Research*

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Last year, we published three JPR symposium issues: “Semi-in-vivo developmental biology” under the supervision of Drs. Yuki Kondo and Shigeo Sugano (January issue), “Floral development: re-evaluation of its importance” under the supervision of Drs. Akitoshi Iwamoto and Kester Bull-Hereñu (May issue), and “Physiological ecology of woody species in response to air pollution and climate changes” under the supervision of Drs. Yasutomo Hoshika and Takayoshi Koike (November issue).

The first symposium, “Semi-in-vivo developmental biology”, focused on recent attempts to analyze developmental processes and biological phenomena with the use of unique assays as introduced in last year’s New Year’s greeting (Hikosaka 2018; Kondo and Sugano 2018). The second symposium, “Floral development—re-evaluation of its importance—”, focused on the importance of floral development study, which had been one of the most important topics in plant science in the early days, but recently that interest had seemed to decline. This symposium shed light on the subject’s importance and essential linkage with flower morphology (Iwamoto and Bull-Hereñu 2018). One review article and five original papers were presented in this symposium (Bull-Hereñu et al. 2018; Claßen-Bockhoff and Arndt 2018; Iwamoto et al. 2018; Kitazawa and Fujimoto 2018; Ronse de Craene 2018; Tobe et al. 2018). The third symposium, “Physiological ecology of woody species in response to air pollution and climate changes”, focused on responses in woody plants to air pollution and climate change. As forest ecosystems are an important component of the global carbon cycle and provide various ecosystem services to human society, the sustainability of forest diversity and functions is a growing concern (Hoshika and Koike 2018). In this symposium, three original articles were presented (Wang et al. 2018; Watanabe et al. 2018; Zhang et al. 2018).

We also published a virtual issue, “Alpine and subalpine plant communities: importance of plant growth, reproduction, and community assemblage processes for changing environments”, edited by Dr. Koichi Takahashi, on the website of the *Journal of Plant Research* (<https://www.springer.com/10265>). Alpine and subalpine plant communities are considered to be vulnerable to global change and human impact. Environmental influences on plant distribution, species diversity, and regeneration dynamics of plant communities at high altitudes for future conservation must be considered (Takahashi 2018). This virtual issue highlighted 13 articles published after 2010 in the *Journal of Plant Research* (Guerrina et al. 2016; Hirota et al. 2010; Manish et al. 2017; Namgail et al. 2012; Ozaki et al. 2018; Sakio and Masuzawa 2012; Takahashi and Aoki 2015; Takahashi and Miyajima 2010; Takahashi and Obata 2014; Takahashi and Tanaka 2016; Tsujino et al. 2013; Yoshie 2010; Zhu et al. 2010).

We welcome new Editors and Editorial Board members who began their 4-year terms in January 2019: Drs. Koji Takayama, Yanhong Tang, and Atushi Ushimaru (Editors) and Drs. Yuki Tsujita, Onno Muller, Jochem Evers, Ken Naito, Shizue Yoshihara, Yagut Allahverdiyeva-Rinne, and Michael Wrzaczek (Editorial Board).

We thank the Editors and Editorial Board members who rotate out of their positions: Drs. Rhett Harrison and Atsushi Ebihara (Editors) and Drs. Masahide Yamato, Ze-Long Nie, Fei-Hai Yu, Koichi Takahashi, Goro Horiguchi, Edouard Pesquet, Nina Kamennaya, Alex Costa, Kensaku Suzuki (Editorial Board). Dr. Hajime Ikeda finished his term as Editor but rejoined us as an Editorial Board member.

From 1 February 2019, we will start using a new online manuscript submission system, Editorial Manager (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jpre/>). With Editorial Manager we will have more opportunities to use additional services that the publisher offers, including a dedicated helpdesk to support users when necessary. Any submissions on and after this date will be handled in Editorial Manager, while manuscripts submitted by the end of January 2019 will be handled

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through the existing system, ScholarOne Manuscript, until a final publication decision has been made.

We wish you a very happy new year, and we welcome submissions of excellent articles in 2019.

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