New editorial office

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It is my honor to take over the Directorship, as the Editor-in-Chief, of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* (JGPP) from Professor Kazuhito Kawakita of Nagoya University as of 1 January 2018. Our incoming editorial team from Kagawa University would like to express our sincere gratitude to the outgoing editorial team of Nagoya University for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*. Learning from their records of activities and their valuable communications, we can confidently move forward with our best efforts to maintain the integrity and the quality of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* during our stewardship over the next 2 years.

The Phytopathological Society of Japan was founded in 1916 to promote various aspects of phytopathological studies to accumulate academic knowledge and to open ways to apply this knowledge to disease control in Japan. The Society celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015 as one of the leading academic societies in the agricultural sciences in Japan. The journal running by the Phytopathological Society of Japan was first published in 1918, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2018. As the journal expanded its role internationally, the journal was separated and renamed the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* for English-based journal and the *Japanese Journal of Phytopathology* for Japanese-based journal in 1996.

The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* provides a publishing platform for research dealing with plant diseases or their control, including pathogen characterization, identification of pathogens, disease physiology and biochemistry,

molecular biology, morphology and ultrastructure, genetics, disease transmission, ecology and epidemiology, chemical and biological control, disease assessment, and other topics relevant to plant pathological disorders. Since the Journal introduced an online submission and tracking system (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jgpp/>) in 2007, the number of manuscript submissions, as well as downloaded articles, has increased significantly. In 2016, 58,172 downloads were counted by Springer measurement from the Springer Link platform. The 2016 Impact Factor for the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* by The Journal Citation Reports® 2016, published by Clarivate Analytics, was 1.225. The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* offers fast publication to ensure that the latest research is available to researchers globally. In 2016, only 24 days were required from submission of the manuscript to first decision, and then 17 days from acceptance by the publisher to online publication.

The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* is published bi-monthly and welcomes manuscript submissions from wide ranges of academic fields in plant pathology and related topics from researchers around the world.

We look forward to the continued growth and excellence of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*.

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Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*

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