New editorial office

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It is my great honor and privilege to be appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* (JGPP), a role that I will take over from Professor Yuki Ichinose of Okayama University on January 1st, 2022. The incoming editorial team at Tohoku University and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the editorial team at Okayama University for their great efforts on behalf of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* over the last two years. Building on their hard work, we will spare no effort to maintain the integrity and quality of the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* while doing our best to realize further improvements.

The Phytopathological Society of Japan (PSJ) was founded in 1916 to advance the study of a wide range of subjects in the field of phytopathology, with the aim of inspiring academic interest and accumulating knowledge to apply to disease control in agricultural production. Today, the PSJ is recognized as one of the foremost academic societies in Japan. The official journal of the PSJ was first published in 1918. In 1996, the journal was separated into the English-based international journal, the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*, and the *Japanese Journal of Phytopathology*.

The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* publishes papers studying on 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, which are published as Full-length Articles, Short Communications, Disease Notes, Techniques, Letters to the Editor, and Reviews. The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* is a Transformative Journal, meaning that authors can choose to publish using either the traditional publishing route or via immediate open access toward becoming a fully open access journal, and this format has substantially increased the number of manuscript submissions. In 2020, a total of 75,544 papers from the *Journal of General Plant Pathology* were downloaded via the SpringerLink platform, and the 2020 Impact Factor was 1.449. The members of the incoming editorial team are researchers with expert knowledge in various areas of plant pathology and their two-year tenure will give them the opportunity to further improve the journal as well as to foster and develop the science of plant pathology and related areas through their peer-review activities.

The *Journal of General Plant Pathology* ensures fast publication of the latest research in plant pathology and related topics by researchers worldwide. We cordially invite you to submit your excellent research papers to the *Journal of General Plant Pathology*.

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