Editorial

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Since 2016, the Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft [German Scientific Society for Plant Protection and Plant Health (DPG)] is the owner of the society's official organ, Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection (JPDP) published by Springer.

At that point, Dr. Stephan Winter, Leibniz-Institute DSMZ in Braunschweig, Germany, took over the position of Editor-in-Chief to implement necessary changes and to start a new phase in the history of the Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection. His input and commitment was decisive for the journal's following upswing. As intended and planned already in 2016, he left his position as Editor-in-Chief at the end of 2020, which we deeply regret.

In the last three years he already had Dr. Falko Feldmann, managing director and board member of the DPG, as the second Editor-in Chief at his side, and who now is taking his place. The third chairman of DPG, Dr. Gerd Stammler, is taking over the position as second Editor-in-Chief. As for the past five years, both Editors-in Chief will be supported by the Managing Editor, Dr. Christian Carstensen.

The DPG is deeply grateful to Dr. Stephan Winter for his fruitful engagement in the developmental phase of the JPDP after the move to Springer. With his help, many of the previous Associate Editors remained on board and qualified and motivated new ones could be found to support the relaunch of the journal.

Under his guidance the board of the DPG was able to reframe the scope of the journal, establish a modern editorial board management system, and define new formats for contributions, namely opinion papers, perspectives papers, and special issues. We will continue to work with all these important suggestions and ideas. Dr. Winter now laid the responsibility for the journal completely into the hands of the DPG board, which now alone will be responsible for

decisions concerning the direction and development of the JPDP. The very efficient cooperation with Springer allowed a better visibility of the journal and led to a very positive restart of JPDP. Rising numbers of new manuscripts were and are submitted and we very much appreciate the confidence of scientific authors worldwide, who entrust us with their work. Consequently, the “new” JPDP increased its impact to a level never measured before in the 130 years history of the journal founded in 1891. We certainly could not (and did not dare to) anticipate such a development of the Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection in 2016, which is also only possible with the support and commitment of highly motivated Associate Editors from 18 countries around the world. They bring in their network of reviewers, expertise, and patience and guarantee a high quality peer review. Many thanks to all of them.

The JPDP is owned and managed by the DPG, a scientific society that is bound by its statutes. Therefore, the DPG board decided to tie the position of the second Editor-in-Chief to the position of the Third Chairperson of the society. Quarterly, both Editors-in Chief will report to the DPG board about the status and development of the JPDP.

As part of the DPG membership services, all members have free online access to the electronic edition of the JPDP via their member login at www.phytomedizin.org. They thus can directly judge on the journal's quality, its degree of accordance with the society's statutes, and their personal satisfaction with the publication.

The statutes of the DPG list a number of activities as guidelines for and goals of the society, which are thus also binding for the submission of a journal. They include that the vision of sustainable, environmental friendly and risk reduced integrated plant protection should be promoted to gain food security and food safety. The research for such IPP strategies should be supported worldwide, irrespective of a membership in the DPG, and science based knowledge and information transfer should be the key characteristic for leading experts. Experienced scientists should assist less experienced junior academics in their development and education. Thus one of the goals is to support young scientists

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in their education and careers to ensure future oriented, sustainable plant production.

Therefore, the JPDP emphasizes the inclusion of junior researchers. Young scientists are trained in submitting appropriate and well written scientific manuscripts and review articles in cooperation with senior experts. And young scientists also are provided with the chance to become an Associate Editor, accompanied by experienced editors. This support is not restricted to DPG junior members, but includes cooperating scientific societies worldwide. Additionally, the JPDP is tied in to meetings, symposia and congresses of the DPG members and non-members in Germany, Europe and worldwide.

We also would like to welcome Valeriana Ramondo as our new Publishing Editor at Springer Publisher Srl. She is taking the position of Dr. Christina Eckey, who moved into a higher management position at Springer and is still responsible also for the JPDP. Thank you for supporting us in these years of transition—without her help and support this successful development would not have been possible. In our thanks we would also like to include Gabriela Mewoekpor and Monika Bechtold, Editorial Assistants, and Subbulakshmi Devanathan and Haritharani Gopalakrishnan, who supply us in so many ways with their technical assistance in the Editorial Office.

And again our special thanks to the countless authors, reviewers and our committed Associate Editors, without whom the publication of a journal like the *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection* would be impossible.

The DPG warmly invites all colleagues to submit the results of their work in our journal, the *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection*!

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