The Editorial Board is changing

LE Nicolle MD FRCP, Editor-in-Chief

The success of *The Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases & Medical Microbiology* over the past 16 years is largely attributable to the continuing and substantial support from a dedicated and enthusiastic Editorial Board. The individuals who have participated are listed on the masthead in each issue of the *Journal*. Many of the current Editorial Board members have participated continually since the initiation of the *Journal* – a commitment of over 16 years. They have provided oversight as the *Journal* has evolved, and their critical insights in the discussion of issues as they have developed, as well as their suggestions for new directions, have significantly contributed to the maintenance of journal quality. Our associate editors have been particularly active. They have coordinated and, frequently, developed much of the content for the special sections – adult and paediatric infectious disease notes, clinical vignettes and reviews. They have also facilitated the peer review of submitted manuscripts by identifying reviewers and making recommendations for revisions and publication. These contributions have been essential to the continuing operation and high, scientific quality of the *Journal*.

As Editor-in-Chief, I acknowledge a substantial debt to our associate editors and recognize their many years of dedication. But positions 'in perpetuum' are burdensome for volunteers, and may also restrict opportunities for other individuals to contribute to the *Journal* through, for example, the introduction of new ideas to support its evolution. We have all aged over the past 16 years, and younger members of the infectious diseases and medical microbiology community in Canada, in particular, have not been enlisted to contribute to the *Journal* at the editorial level. Ultimately, this may restrict the quality and, possibly, the relevance of the *Journal* to the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada and its membership.

At the most recent Editorial Board meeting, a proposal to institute a rotational system for Editorial Board members,

together with a fixed term of appointment, was discussed and endorsed. The new editorial structure will include 10 associate editors, whose principal activity will be coordinating manuscript review. Initially, appointments will be for five years. Two members will rotate off every year, and an additional two individuals will be appointed each year. There will be the option of reappointment for a second term. The section editors will become a distinct group, and will also have limited term appointments. This will allow for the continuing introduction of new members of the Canadian infectious diseases and medical microbiology community to the editorial activities of the *Journal*. Associate editors who have made continuing commitments over many years will also reach a well-earned retirement. These changes should maintain the high quality of journal content and enthusiasm among Editorial Board members, and foster critical review and new ideas. The changes in the Editorial Board will be reflected in the masthead of the *Journal*, and the initial changes are apparent on the masthead of the present issue. Leaving as associate editors after 16 years of service are Dr M Bergeron and Dr M Wainberg – two leaders in Canadian infectious diseases and microbiology who have made important contributions to the *Journal* over a prolonged time.

It is, of course, necessary to acknowledge the substantial contributions of all members of the board. Working with members of the Editorial Board has been one of the delights of being a journal editor. These colleagues and friends have been enthusiastic supporters and an essential sounding board since the inception of this journal. The comments and critical advice provided has continually stimulated and challenged this journal's editor and publishers. However, we can now also look forward to the participation of additional colleagues in the support of the *Journal*, which will serve to maintain the high quality and relevance of content appropriate for the official publication of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada.

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