

Editor's note

Dear Reader,

This issue will be on your desk in the new year and I take this occasion to send you the best wishes of the Editors.

I trust that those who have seen their manuscripts in print will be satisfied with our endeavours. Those who have had their paper(s) refused may begrudge this somewhat. It is our policy to select referees who have proven to be constructive in their criticisms; therefore I hope that we have been useful to some extent even to those whose papers were not accepted.

Finally, there are those sceptics who have not yet sent us some of their good manuscripts. It is to them especially that I want to address myself. After three volumes, *Antiviral Research* is becoming a promising young journal. We, the Editors, of course, want to do better. For this we need help and confidence. The quality of the papers that have been granted for publication is, in our opinion, good and some are even excellent. Unquestionably, there are some better papers in the antiviral field that have been published elsewhere: we did not expect it to be otherwise. In the last months we have been receiving more and more manuscripts of better quality and this makes us confident that *Antiviral Research* will thrive.

The variety in the scope of the papers has not been what we had expected at the outset. We received very few papers on viral vaccines and the mechanisms of resistance to viral infections. We did receive many nice papers on antiviral agents and some rather interesting contributions on interferon, but – undoubtedly due to strong competition in this field – the number of interferon manuscripts has been decreasing in the last (half) year. I strongly believe that our journal is an adequate forum for interferon, especially if treated from the antiviral angle. As it is becoming increasingly clear now that interferon has failed to realize its ambitions as an antitumor drug, I expect it to fall back on its essential function, i.e. that of a natural antiviral defense mechanism. Hence, I do hope that we will receive an increasing number of interferon manuscripts in the months to come.

For the interferon research workers who are less familiar with our journal, I am providing a list of the papers on interferon that have been published in the three volumes of *Antiviral Research*.

A. Billiau
Executive Editor