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Editorial

Typing these lines makes me feel deeply honored, and perhaps somewhat nervous as well. The two preceding Editors of the Journal of Magnetic Resonance were true giants, and their skills were instrumental in guiding the Journal to its current status. It suffices to open an issue of JMR published during the 1970s or 1980s, to appreciate what an outstanding vision Wallace S. Brey had as founder and steward of the Journal over its initial decades. Every issue published in JMR during Brey's 27 years as Editor contains at least one – and often several – ground-breaking papers setting the foundations of EPR, NQR, NMR or MRI. Something similar can be said about the leadership that Stan Opella brought upon becoming the Journal's Editor in 1997: despite the increasing complexity that over the intervening years characterized the field of magnetic resonance, Stan managed to endow the Journal with manuscripts of the highest scientific standards; and he succeeded in doing so, while continuously improving the quality and speed of the manuscripts' publication process. For all these achievements I believe we all remain deeply grateful to Stan – as well as delighted to hear that he has agreed to remain involved with JMR, as member of its Editorial Board.

And still, there is some degree of trepidation upon “stepping into Stan's shoes”. Nearly seven decades have elapsed since the initial observation of magnetic resonance phenomena. This is a long period by the rapidly-changing standards of contemporary Science; a maturity which might challenge the continued rate of progress of any field – and accordingly the fate of a journal like JMR. I am deeply convinced, however, that magnetic resonance constitutes *such* a special case within Science, that usual rules of maturation and senescence do not apply to it. Indeed the roots of magnetic resonance lie deep in the realm of the quantum spin physics; its body has been uninterruptedly growing thanks to the incorporation of technological developments in superconductivity, cryogenics, electronics, signal processing and digital imaging; and the melding of these basic and applied aspects have taken the various branches of EPR, NQR, NMR and MRI into unanticipated directions covering virtually every discipline of Science – from physics, chemistry, and molecular biology, to physiological research, clinical diagnosis and psychology. No other area in the field of spectroscopy can boast to have impacted such a wide gamut of specialties, or to exhibit such diversity of applications. And it is precisely to make room for the constant and often serendipitous growth of our field, to address the ever-expanding horizon of MR-derived applications, that I believe a publication like JMR can and will play a critical role for years to come. Indeed our commitments to the scientific community, to funding agencies and to Society at large,

often compel us to describe the value of magnetic resonance in terms of the beauty of its “foliage”: upon disclosing magnetic resonance findings we feel a need to stress their importance in chemistry, their usefulness for developing new materials or discovering new drugs, their far reaching consequences for biomolecular analyses, or their unique opportunities for diagnosing disease or understanding metabolism. Expounding all these aspects of our work in layman terms and publicize them in non-specialized journals are most laudable goals, and constitutes an important responsibility for all of us working in academia, industry and the clinic. But not less important is the need for a welcoming home where to expose the full details of our ideas, without finding a need for justifying them. It is essential to find a community of fellow peers, which will critically appraise the validity of our theoretical or experimental discoveries in magnetic resonance, and judge them solely on the basis of their correctness and of their intellectual merit. Indeed let us not forget that despite their myriad of applications, NMR and EPR were actually born as “curiosities”; spin-offs of the quantum mechanics revolution, that grew out of inquisitiveness and of the pursue of scientific excellence. It is with the aim to maintain and expand a nourishing and sheltering home where scientists and engineers can keep on discussing, in-depth and solely for the sake of basic research and of scientific excellence, the developments that will define the future of magnetic resonance, that I see an important role for the future of our Journal. And it is with the motivation to confront and to overcome this challenge, that I am happy to take the assignment as Editor of JMR.

Keeping JMR as the main forum for all the technological and scientific aspects that make up magnetic resonance – whether dealing with solids or liquids, with *in vitro* or *in vivo*, with theory or experiments – also implies a continuous improvement in the Journal's operation. With the help of a renewed team of Associate Editors, of a young and enthusiastic Editorial Board covering all areas of EPR, NMR and MRI, and of an ever-expanding cadre of experts willing to volunteer their talents for the peer reviewing process, I am confident that we will succeed in reducing even further the already short times that it takes to handle our submissions. Further impact will also be sought with emerging web-based tools, which with the aid of Elsevier I trust will make our publications more visible – both within our own constituency, as well as to the scientific and medical communities at large. Updates on these ongoing projects will become available over the coming months, as they get implemented. I would also like to conclude these lines by thanking *you*, the Journal's authors and reviewers, who in a world-wide, concerted effort help maintain JMR at the forefront of scientific

research. In this respect I would also like to invite you to contact me directly, or any member of our Associate Editors team or our Editorial Office, for sharing any suggestions, comments or criticisms that you may have, and that may help us to better serve our goals and our community.

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