

Editorial

It is more than a year ago that Luis Moroder took over as the new Editor-in-Chief, and in several meetings with the Editorial and the Advisory Boards it was decided to attempt improvements and changes to this Journal. From the list of the Advisory Board members you will notice that this has been significantly enlarged and rejuvenated to cover the needed new expertise for emerging areas in peptide science, also taking into account a good geographical mix. On this occasion, we would like to thank all those advisors who have left the Board, for their many years of service to this Journal, and we welcome all the new members. We hope that the newcomers will be active as advisors, reviewers and authors to this Journal, helping us to further increase the quality and scientific impact of the Journal, making it THE place wherein to publish key peptide science.

The *Journal of Peptide Science* was launched in 1995 before journals were published online and therefore, it was designed with the print-look in mind. Since 1996, the Journal is published both in print and online. Today, we estimate that more than 90% of our subscribers read this Journal online, making it imperative to adapt the style of the Journal to this new reality. Indeed, readers will notice that we have changed the layout and made sure that it is reader friendly in the screen version, the print edition as well as in printout format.

In the past, cover illustrations for regular issues were changed every other year. From this year, this policy will be changed and cover illustrations for regular issues will be replaced every year, so that the Journal will reflect new developments and highlight timely, the changes of peptide science. The cover, this year, features an illustration of the trypsin-like active site of the proteasome with a bound natural inhibitor. As outlined in the accompanying mini-review, inhibition of this intracellular proteolytic machinery is one of the most promising drug targets in cancer therapy, but it continues to be a serious challenge for peptide chemistry.

It is a special pleasure to announce new features in the content of the Journal. In forthcoming issues, reviews from the Leonidas Zervas and Josef Rudinger Lecture Awards of the European Peptide Society will be published. In addition, readers will be able to download online video versions from these award lectures in Helsinki, and in the future, obviously more use of these new technical developments will be made. Even a new type of article will be added: **Peptide Protocols**. Examples of such Protocols will be published in forthcoming issues and the editors are keen to receive feedback from the scientific community about the usefulness and ideas for new topics to be covered by these Protocols.

Special issues are a regular feature of the *Journal of Peptide Science*. The year 2008 has seen the publication of two exciting special issues based on the meetings 'Peptides in

Nanotechnology' and 'Biophysics of Membrane-Active Peptides' organized by the guest editors Alberto Bianco, and Miguel Castanho and Margitta Dathe, respectively, to provide a focused view on these themes at the forefront of peptide science. As already traditional, the abstracts from the 30th European Peptide Symposium in Helsinki were included in a supplement issue of the Journal. For 2009, we have plans for two special issues addressing advanced research in Bioactive Peptides.

A journal must not only be user friendly to its readers, but it should also serve the authors. The year 2009 will see two major updates of Manuscript Central, which should make the work of authors, reviewers and editors easier. In addition, the Author Guidelines have been revisited for better help in preparing and submitting the manuscripts. For this purpose, we would just like to remind you of three improvements: you can use EndNotes templates in order to handle better your references, and you can publish at no cost, two colour illustrations per full article, rapid and short communications, or peptide protocols, and an unlimited number of free coloured illustrations for reviews, if deemed necessary and useful by the editors.

This autumn, we will announce the winner of the 1st 'Journal of Peptide Science Best Paper Award'. In close cooperation with the European Peptide Society the Editors have experimented with different types of awards, but they all proved to be too complicated to administrate. The *Journal of Peptide Science* publishes several full papers based on material presented at European Peptide Symposia or related conferences and therefore, it seemed a good idea to choose the award from the highest quality papers published in this Journal. For more information on the rules of this prize and how to be nominated please consult the advertisement which will be published regularly in this Journal.

Overall, the *Journal of Peptide Science* continues to serve the peptide community with high quality and innovative publications. We hope that the new style, the new type of articles, the new online possibilities and the general development of the *Journal of Peptide Science* will find your approval. We thank you – our authors, referees and Editorial Board members – for making 2008 another milestone in the Journal's history.

Luis Moroder
Editor-in-Chief

Martin Rothlisberger
Publishing Editor