

EDITORIAL NEWS

When I was invited in the beginning of 1998 to join the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Plant Growth Regulation*, I was very excited about this possibility to work for the Journal. I was even more honored about the invitation to take over as Editor-in-Chief in mid-2003, although it was a challenge to follow two very dedicated previous editors who helped to make the journal visible among the many out there. The thematic issues, begun by Dr. Judith Croxdale, were especially successful for JPGR. In these thematic issues, experts in a given field served as guest editors and were able to solicit high-quality papers and reviews on selected topics. Certainly, these thematic issues will be continued, two were published in 2004, one on jasmonic acid the other on biomechanical aspects, and two more are planned for 2005. Suggestions for "hot" topics are always welcome.

We have now begun accepting Short Communications, in which we consider among others, papers dealing with the isolation, identification, and structure of plant growth regulators, provided that the information is new for a particular growth regulator in a given plant species. In addition, Short Communications may deal with any aspect of plant growth and development that would be acceptable for regular contributions, but the combined number of figures and tables may not exceed four per manuscript. Several manuscripts have been submitted in the past year in this category and several have been accepted for publication. Two appear in this issue.

Review articles on topics related to all aspects of plant growth and development outside the thematic issues are another new feature of JPGR. In this category, we have received several contributions, which will be published throughout the year.

In addition to original research articles, it is our hope that these reviews will contribute to the visibility of the journal.

Another new feature is Meeting Reports, the first of which, the Keystone Meeting on "Plant Cell Signaling: In Vivo and -omics Approaches," appears in this issue. This meeting, which took place in February in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was covered for JPGR by participants Sona Pandey, Laetitia Perfus-Barbeoch, J. Philip Taylor, and Zhixin Zhao, who wrote the article. We hope to continue Meeting Reports, with particular focus on smaller meetings related to the topics covered by JPGR. Because this concept does not include larger meetings, we invite all readers of JPGR to suggest other meetings that might be of interest, and to send their suggestions either to the Editorial Office (jpr@tds.net) or directly to me.

With the electronic submission system Manuscript Central, which began last fall, the number of submitted manuscripts to JPGR has significantly increased. In addition, we hope to speed up the reviewing process by using Manuscript Central. This electronic submission system allows much easier handling of submissions and greatly facilitates the tasks of our editorial board as well as the reviewers. We hope that this will open JPGR to a much broader scientific community by widening the topics we might consider suitable for publication in JPGR. This might include manuscripts on -omic aspects as well as computer biology.

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