

## EDITORIAL

The foresight of W. Jülich, founder of *Mycorrhiza*, in judging the scientific community's need for such a specialised journal devoted to mycorrhizal research was more than justified. The aim of this editorial is not to reiterate the points he made in the preface to the first issue of the journal in 1991. Since then, mycorrhizal research has taken on new dimensions with advances in molecular biology achievements, and with developments in biotechnology that strive to reconcile the conversion of non-renewable resources with their reasonable exploitation in an endeavour to meet ever-expanding demands of plant productivity, while minimising the risks of environmental damage.

At present *Mycorrhiza* is the only journal combining all aspects of mycorrhizal research and simultaneously providing an international journal of interdisciplinarity, frontiering mycology with plant biology, ecology with cellular and molecular biology, biochemistry with crop management, etc. *Mycorrhiza* therefore comes into its own, not only as a source of basic information about mycorrhizas and the fungi forming them, but also in contributing to a more general understanding of plant-microbe interactions and of the role of microorganisms in ecosystem equilibria.

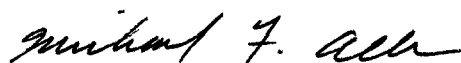
Although *Mycorrhiza* is a specialised journal, it aims to satisfy the needs of a diverse audience (molecular biologists, geneticists, biochemists, mycologists, agronomists, ecologists, foresters, soil scientists, plant physiologists) aware of the role of mycorrhizas as driving forces in species diversity, plant colonisation or succession, soil structure, etc. and requiring detailed or broad information, contacts and collaboration with scientists specialised in mycorrhizal research. It is with this in mind that we propose to widen the journal's initiatives to include a "Newscorner" featuring information on

research events, announcements, book reviews, and brief reports of meetings, regional societies, networks, etc. (Proposed contributions are to be addressed to V. Gianinazzi-Pearson, Managing Editor.)

To take responsibility for an international journal is a challenge, and as Managing Editors we intend to ensure a high scientific quality for *Mycorrhiza* through the standards of contributed articles, with support from reviewers and Associate Editors, whose recently increased board membership includes internationally renowned scientists involved in different areas of mycorrhizal research. Being aware of the varied interests of the readers and contributors and their expectancies of high-quality information, our goal is to ensure that *Mycorrhiza* is the international journal of mycorrhizal research.



Vivienne Gianinazzi-Pearson



Michael F. Allen

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