

Letter from the Editor: You Say Goodbye and I Say Hello...*



Serving as Editor of *The American Journal of Human Genetics* is a privilege and an honor, and I am grateful to have this treasured opportunity. The *AJHG* is a highly regarded scientific publication reflecting the excellent quality of manuscripts received from the genetics community for review. It is an exciting time to be a human geneticist, and, in my opinion, it has always been an exciting time to pursue a career in this field!

I am very fortunate to take the helm following the very able leadership of Stephen Warren. His advice during this time of transition, and the assistance of his fabulous staff—Kate Garber, Deputy Editor, and Carissa Gilman, Managing Editor—has been invaluable. While it is difficult to say “goodbye” to Steve as our trusted and wise Editor, we can all look forward to his continued service as the next President of the American Society of Human Genetics. I thank him and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

The change of the Editorship presents a time for a fresh look at the *Journal*. At the same time, it's certainly easy to stand in awe of the evolution of the *Journal* during the past 5 years, in terms of online submissions and access, and to wonder how any improvements could be made. Clearly, an important and ongoing effort is to publish the best science and at the same time to represent fairly the diverse interests of the membership of our So-

ciety. The impact factor must remain high and the turnaround time to publication low. Nevertheless, some modifications need to occur to keep the *Journal* vibrant and dynamic. But how can the *Journal* best serve the needs of the members of the Society in the future? How can the *Journal* foster a sense of community and scientific purpose and a call to global responsibility among its membership? Perhaps the need has never been greater, as genetics is in the spotlight and in the crosshairs at every turn.

With all of these considerations in mind, some changes are underway. A new cover will include images of seminal observations in human genetics. I invite your suggestions, to make the cover a monthly educational experience. A new feature included in this month is Society News, edited by Joann Boughman, Executive Vice President of the ASHG. The goal of Society News is to inform the ASHG membership about the many activities of the Administrative Office and Committees of the Society. Through this monthly feature, it is my hope to engage further the membership in taking an active role in promoting, guiding, and fulfilling Society endeavors. Another new feature being developed will be Perspectives in Human Genetics, edited by Arno Motulsky, whose many outstanding accomplishments include being a former Editor of the *AJHG*. Perspectives in Human Genetics will include invited essays by highly regarded members of the Society addressing various topics in human genetics. Might the sage words of esteemed and thoughtful members be a source of inspiration and reflection for us all? We are anxious to learn about topics that you would enjoy reading in these essays, and encourage your input.

To execute these plans, a new staff is on board in Boston, and I am very pleased to introduce you to Robin Williamson, Ph.D., Deputy Editor; Katherine DyReyes, Managing Editor; and Suzanne Peterson, Editorial Assistant. We look forward to being the stewards of your outstanding research through the publication process and to enticing you to send your best papers to the *AJHG*!

CYNTHIA CASSON MORTON
Boston
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* Yes, I am a Beatles fan!
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