

## COMMENTARY

A New Era of *CMGH*

As incoming co-Editors-in-Chief, we are truly excited to assume the responsibility of guiding *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CMGH)* as it enters its second phase of development. We are indebted to the outstanding outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Dr Jerrold R. Turner, whose dedication and commitment made this difficult endeavor not only possible, but also highly successful. It is remarkable that in a short period of time Dr Turner and his Associate Editors James Goldenring, Rebecca Wells, and Maria Rescigno have established a new journal that has gained a wide readership and a deserved reputation in our community as a home for quality research, reviews, and commentary. An additional measure of the outgoing Board's success will be evident a year from now when the *CMGH* impact factor is released by Clarivate Analytics; we anticipate that it will be one that will be gratifying to everyone that has contributed to *CMGH*, most importantly, our authors.

As co-Editors-in-Chief, we have set one simple, overriding goal for our tenure: to ensure that *CMGH* is recognized as the leading journal for basic and translational research in digestive system biology. As such, we hope to make *CMGH* the "go-to" journal for publication of research articles that address the interests of our scientific community. We believe that as an American Gastroenterological Association journal, *CMGH* will provide visibility and impact for our authors to the community that matters, something that is not guaranteed in the general science journals.

To achieve our goal, we believe it is essential to accomplish the following:

- First, to increase the *CMGH* readership through vigorous promotion of the journal and its research articles via the American Gastroenterological Association and at the relevant scientific conferences.
- Second, to increase submission of impactful manuscripts, particularly from authors not yet familiar with *CMGH* and who are thus more likely to submit their work to peer journals.
- Third, to make *CMGH* an even more accessible and user-friendly journal for scientists through continued improvement of our website.

Achieving these goals will require us to ensure that *CMGH* is known within the broader scientific community and emphasize the advantages of publishing in a not-for-profit, open access journal run by and for scientists. As such, we will continue to make it a priority to provide authors with rapid turnaround, fair and reasonable reviews, and an open line of communication with the Board of Editors to address issues that arise during the review process. We will also maintain the existing policy of no page or figure limits for our research articles.

In the long term, scientific publishing has to deal with a crisis of confidence in the fairness of the system. The changing landscape is evident both by the large number of newly emerging journals; the proliferation of the high-profile, for-profit branded publications; and the rapid rise of preprint servers that post non-peer-reviewed manuscripts. These trends can be attributed to the limitations of the current peer-review system, which frequently forces substantial delays in time to acceptance and publication by unrealistic and poor-quality reviews and unengaged editors. The importance of rigorous not-for-profit journals with academic editors such as *CMGH* is only growing, and we hope to continue to provide outstanding peer review and editorial guidance for the benefit of our authors and the rapid dissemination of rigorous and exciting scientific progress.

For the Board of Editors of *CMGH*,

KLAUS H. KAESTNER, PhD

MICHAEL PACK, MD

co-Editors-in-Chief

*Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology*

## Correspondence

Address correspondence to: Klaus H. Kaestner, PhD, e-mail: [kaestner@penncmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:kaestner@penncmedicine.upenn.edu); or Michael Pack, MD, e-mail: [mpack@penncmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:mpack@penncmedicine.upenn.edu).

## Conflicts of interest

The authors disclose no conflicts.



## Most current article

© 2019 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. on behalf of the AGA Institute. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

2352-345X

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcmgh.2019.08.012>