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Editorial

JCR is attuned for the 2020s



1. The new editorial structure of JCR

It is my distinct pleasure introducing the new executive editorial team of the Journal of Controlled Release (JCR) who start their service from January 1, 2020. Christine Allen will serve as the Editor-in-Chief, and Stefaan De Smedt and Yu-Kyoung Oh will serve as Deputy Editor-in-Chiefs. Fernanda Ogochi, the Publisher of JCR, worked hard for bold, thoughtful, and visionary changes to meet the challenges facing the journal in the 2020s. The new structure is designed to foster deeper collaboration between the Americas, Europe, and Asia editorial offices. The new executive team, together with the associate editors, will design the future of JCR, set up the new scope boundaries, and help shape the drug delivery community at large. The new editorial team will serve their unmatched energy, wisdom, and inclusive and inspiring leadership for the drug delivery field in the years to come.

2. The dawning of the age of a new JCR

The first issue of JCR was published in September 1984. Jorge Heller and Jan Feijen served as the Founding Editors of JCR for 14 years. Both were not only excellent scientists but also, more importantly, wonderful persons who led the drug delivery field in the right direction with the dignity and pride we all share. Jorge and Jan mentioned in their first editorial, "We sincerely hope that the Journal of Controlled Release will become the leading forum for high quality manuscripts dealing with controlled release and related subjects, and if this first issue is at all typical, there is little doubt that our hopes will be realized." Colin Pitt, another brilliant person, took over the journal as the Editor-in-Chief in 1998. The first thing that Colin requested JCR colleagues was, "I invite all of you to let me and my fellow editors know what you think about the Journal and what changes, if any, you would like to see. The Journal is not static and must change with the science and with your needs. Please let us know." (Vol. 55, page 1, 1998). Indeed, JCR has been improving based on such changes suggested by the community. It is time that JCR undergoes meaningful changes to prepare for the challenges facing us in the new decade. The new editorial structure embodies JCR's continued efforts in making a more inclusive representation of the community we serve based on gender, regions, and research areas.

A few noticeable changes have already happened in the editorial team. Yoon Yeo, Xun Sun, and Zhiyuan Zhong have been serving as new associate editors from 2019. The Asia office has been working on the plan to handle effectively the ever-increasing contributions by the Asian scientists and improve the overall impact of JCR on the global drug delivery community.

3. Special thanks to the editors who served in the 2010s

By the end of 2019, several JCR editors had completed their service to the community. Ick Chan Kwon served as the Editor of the Asia office for more than a decade. He was the one who brought all the new ideas that JCR has implemented over the years, such as the cover stories, JCR Twitter, and Perspectives. His service has left invaluable marks, and we owe him greatly. In the Asia office, Hideyoshi Harashima served honorably as Associate Editor with Ick Chan. You Han Bae and Samir Mitragotri, Editors of the Americas, also played instrumental roles for the journal's growth. You Han also served as the Concept Papers Editor. Wim Hennink gave unparalleled service to JCR as the former Editor of the Europe office and as Special Issue Editor for decades. The contributions by Thomas Kissel as the former Editor of the Europe office and Jean-Christophe Leroux as Associate Editor of Europe are also unforgettable. All of these editors served the drug delivery community with the ultimate integrity and fairness. JCR has been fortunate to have tremendously supportive publishers over the years, and special thanks go to Kim Briggs Jansen and Jaap van Harten who were the active partners deserving the credit for the success of the journal.

While JCR is undergoing editorial changes, many current editors have agreed to continue their service. Steven Schwendeman, Dan Peer, Twan Lammers, Paolo Caliceti, Akihiko Kikuchi, Vladmir Torchilin, Raymond Schiffelers, and Justin Hanes will ensure the stable transition to the next generation of leaders. JCR is very fortunate to have such highly committed editors who have always put the journal first, and their dedication is highly appreciated.

4. JCR at age 40

JCR will soon reach its 40th birthday. At age 40, Confucius had no doubts about himself and the world. He was confident in his morals and beliefs. He encouraged his disciples to become authentic selves who demonstrate grace, courage, faith, and integrity. The authentic persons do not hesitate to correct when they make a mistake and recognize it as a learning experience. In this highly competitive environment where everybody is equally capable, those who make fewer mistakes have a better chance to move ahead. JCR has been thriving, but transcending to the next level of eminence requires becoming authentic and demonstrating mastery in its conduct. In the drug delivery community, JCR echoes us.

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