Editorial Welcome from Tanya Parish, new Editor-in-Chief

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It is my pleasure to take on the role of Editor-in-Chief (EiC) at this journal. As incoming EiC, I should like to thank the outgoing EiC, Dr Agnès Fouet. Agnès played a key role in many of the changes in the journal over the past 5 years, which have allowed us to adapt to the current publishing and scientific climate. She has done this with typical style and grace. On a personal note, I am thankful for her excellent mentorship and advice over this time and during the EiC transition.

Our journal has long played a key role in disseminating high quality articles in microbiology, first as the Journal of General Microbiology and latterly as Microbiology. My first interaction with the journal was during the time I was conducting research at the National Institute for Medical Research for my PhD. A key paper on my thesis topic was published by my PhD mentor, Dr Philip Draper, in 1967 (Draper, 1967). Thirty years later, I had my first publication as first author in the journal (Parish et al., 1997), by then renamed Microbiology. Since that time, the journal has remained a constant presence in my life, with roles as an author, reviewer, Associate Editor, Senior Editor, and now as Editor-in-Chief. Throughout this long association, I have been proud to be part of a journal that promotes scientific discourse at the highest level, not only as a primary research publication, but also by the role it plays in sustaining the activities of the Society for General Microbiology. Many of our Editors play key roles in the society, as well as the journal, and we are fortunate to have such a group of dedicated and talented scientists to call upon – after all, this is done as a voluntary activity.

The publication playing field is constantly changing, with many new journals entering the field, and with open access playing an increasingly large role. Microbiology is no stranger to change and as part of our current revamp, we are launching a new look for the journal – not only will this make our website more accessible, it will enable us to keep pace with changes in how we access papers today. Our new website will have improved reading and searching capabilities for all devices including mobile devices – ensuring we can all access the journal through our collection of laptops, tablets, iPads and smartphones!

The role of an EiC is not always an easy one, and I am sure there will be plenty of work to keep me busy during my tenure, but I hope to maintain the high standards of all of our previous EiCs, and the continued good name of this prestigious journal. In the next 5 years, I anticipate further changes to the way we publish and present our articles, and I am sure that the Society’s excellent Editorial Office and Publishing staff at Charles Darwin House in London will be able to keep us moving in the right direction and help us to continue to adapt and thrive.

We look forward to continuing to serve the microbiological community and welcome your ongoing support and article submissions.

References
