Thank you and goodbye

Peter Borriello*

My five years at the helm as Editor-in-Chief are now complete and it is time for me to step down and to welcome Norman Fry and Kalai Mathee as new co-Editors-in-Chief. Time certainly does seem to rush past, and for science publishing, there have been many changes in that time, probably more than in the preceding 50 years. The business model has changed with the move to open access, ease of publishing has increased, offering wider choice, and pressure on the time of scientific staff has made it harder for them to put time aside to undertake peer review, to serve as editors or to contribute to review articles. The Journal of Medical Microbiology has had to adapt. It would have been strange if a journal devoted to micro-organisms did not recognize the need to change in response to a changing environment! Some of our key evolutionary changes were to ‘spin-out’ case reports and form a new e-journal, JMM Case Reports; to give more clarity to the subject-matter scope of the journal; to reorganize the editorial board to have section editors to match to the new six sections of the journal; and to establish a new Short Communications category and a correspondence section (Letters to the Editor).

We also have reached out to improve awareness of the journal among researchers in more countries. However whatever metrics we use, such as rejection rate and time to acceptance, and whatever process improvements we make, such as continuous publication, the only real metric is the value to readers of the material published in improving and advancing the science of medical microbiology and medical microbiological services to society. In that regard I am convinced that Norman and Kalai will not only maintain the proud tradition (and evolution) of the journal, but improve it further.