With this issue, we begin our renewed tenure as Editors of our journal, and we are pleased to advise our readers of the journal’s progress during our first five-year stint. As we communicated to you last year, the editors are truly pleased and honored with the confidence of the American Heart Association and its Scientific Publishing Committee who have awarded our team, for the first time with Hypertension, another three years to continue our editorial responsibilities. We are delighted to accept this vote of confidence. Clearly, the successes of our initial five years would not have been possible without the support that we have received from: the authors and readers of our journal; the tremendous number of reviewers of the submitted manuscripts (now exceeding 1800 scientists); and the hard-working members of our Editorial Board. Without such broad support, we would not have had this tremendous success that we all enjoy. We publicly extend to each of you our deep gratitude.

Much of your hard work can be translated into very real and hard data. Thus, in 1998 our journal received almost 1100 manuscripts (and we did not have an Inter-American Society of Hypertension meeting this year). We are most grateful to William B. Campbell, PhD, Guest Editor for the publication of the proceedings of the annual Fall meeting of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research, and to Joey P. Granger, PhD, Guest Editor for the biennial publication of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension proceedings. The review process by their respective peer-review committees resulted in rapid publication of these two important issues in Hypertension. We must emphasize the giant task of these two review processes, which may be summarized by the fact that these proceedings were published within four months of these two important scientific meetings.

Progress Report
Support of the journal by our authors can be demonstrated best by the increasing number of manuscripts submitted to Hypertension from all over the world. Of the increasing number of papers submitted, over 50 percent originated from countries other than the United States; the top five countries in order of number of papers submitted were: Japan, Italy, Germany, Canada, and France. We are truly delighted to have this broad international confidence in our journal. Further, these papers continue to be divided equally between laboratory and clinically oriented research.

There are other data that relate to your hard work. First, we now provide our authors with an initial review of their manuscripts in about three and one half weeks—almost an irreducible time when one considers that the referees are given two weeks to respond with their review. Second, the time taken from submission to final acceptance of manuscripts is now 13 weeks; and this reflects the time necessary for our authors to make revisions, perform additional experiments, or include additional information. No doubt, these figures have had an impact (a positive feedback, if you will) on the increasing number of manuscripts submitted to the journal. And, having mentioned “impact”, we add that the journal’s impact score has increased to 4.94, twice that of the closest hypertension journals.

This activity in our journal office is attended with the need to publish accepted papers without inordinate delay. At present, the delay from final acceptance to publication of a manuscript is just two months. However, because we have not received an increased allocation of pages by the American Heart Association, we have been forced to increase the rejection rate of manuscripts to about 70 percent. To compensate for this stringent measure imposed upon our highly competitive submitted manuscripts, we have requested that our authors reduce the length of their manuscripts by about 20 percent—reducing the maximum from 25 to 20 typewritten pages. Most remarkably, there has been no negative response from our authors. Additionally, we have temporarily discontinued the feature of Letters to the Editor and their respective Responses to help ease the need for pages. We have not been forced to take other draconian measures.

It is difficult to achieve each of these goals that we have set for ourselves without making special note of the outstanding editorial support team in our office: Annie Rivera and Debby Smith, our Production and Managing Editors, respectively; Irene Hebert, Associate Managing Editor; and Virginia Helton, Editorial Assistant. Without their most competent and hard-working support and pride in their journal and work, none of the positive actions would have been possible. Their contributions have not gone unnoticed by you, the authors and readers. We all appreciate your comments.

Each of the foregoing accomplishments must be considered in the context of a major administrative upheaval of journal support and publication efforts. As you may be aware, as of January 1, 1998, all of the American Heart Association’s scientific journals were outsourced to the Williams & Wilkins Publishing Company. This transfer of responsibilities, from our point of view, went off without a hitch. But, were this not enough, shortly thereafter the publisher merged with the Lippincott-Raven Publishing group to create a most formidable publishing entity, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. Once again, these drastic changes, involving two large companies and their respective staffs, went off without any perceptible problem from our point of view. For this good fortune, our editorial team expresses its deepest and most sincere appre-
ication to Ms Cara Kaufman and her superb co-workers. Communication between the editorial and publishing aspects of our journal has never been better and we truly look forward to the next three years of our association with high anticipation.

Our publisher and the American Heart Association have also joined efforts to provide our journal subscribers with the latest Internet technology. Since September, all five of the American Heart Association scientific journals have been available online with full text and graphics (www.ahajournals.org). Subscribers to Hypertension (www.hypertensionaha.org), and any of the other four journals, can now access the current month’s issue and past issues with the click of a button. In addition, the journal web sites provide authors and referees with current manuscript submission guidelines and forms. This use of the Internet may soon be used by our readers to have their Letters to the Editors published and answered. In addition, we have proposed that unpublished methodological details and more detailed data may be added to the repository on the Internet. More about this will be communicated in future Instructions to our Authors.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Of great significance to all of us, we now celebrate with great excitement the 20th anniversary of our journal. A special logo has been placed on the journal cover to commemorate this event, and a number of special journal events will also take place this year. In this January issue, we begin by giving credit to an unsung hero of the journal: Dr Louis Tobian. Lou worked extremely hard on behalf of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research as its Chairman from 1975–1977 in presenting the need for a world class journal in the hypertension area. None had existed at the time. From his comments we are pleased to point out that now about 50 percent of the manuscripts that are being published. Furthermore, we are pleased to point out that now about 50 percent of our papers have a firm basis in clinical research with the other half basing their focus in the laboratory. Finally, as a journal, is appreciated worldwide.

We are delighted to dedicate this month’s issue to Dr Louis Tobian, a true leader in the world hypertension community. During the year, other important features with respect to the Council and journal will be presented. We hope that the reader of our journal will find these features of interest, and we know that they join with us in the success of our journal, which is a tribute to the prior editors in establishing the reputation of Hypertension as a premier world journal in this field. We also wish to report to our readers some additional points of interest. We were delighted that the Publications Committee and the American Heart Association invited our editors to continue the traditional five-year tenure of editorship for an additional three years and we give much credit to our editorial board, referees, and of course our contributors for making this journal as successful as it is.

Acknowledgment of Reviewers

During our first five years editing Hypertension, we have seen the number of manuscripts submitted to our journal more than double. We know that this has increased the competition for authors in gaining publication of their work. But on a more positive note, it only adds to the luster of the manuscripts that are being published. Furthermore, we are pleased to point out that now about 50 percent of our papers have a firm basis in clinical research with the other half basing their focus in the laboratory. Finally, as we always do each year, we are pleased to credit the unselfish time provided to the journal and its readers by more than 900 referees this year for their outstanding review of submitted manuscripts. These peer referees from all over the world underscore our point that Hypertension, as a journal, is appreciated worldwide.

Christian Aalkjaer
Francois Abboud
Freddy M. Abi-Samra
Enrico Agabiti-Rosei
Arun K. Agarwal
Ghazi F. Al-Tememi
Michael H. Alderman
R. Wayne Alexander
Francois Alhenc-Gelas
Michael T. Allen
Richard H. Alper
Burton M. Altura
Christian Aalkjaer
Jeffrey Atkinson
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David B. Averill
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We sincerely hope, again, that the authors join with us in our excitement about celebrating our 20th anniversary and hope that our readers appreciate the manner in which we share this excitement with you. In conclusion, the managing and editorial staffs of *Hypertension* extend to you all a very Happy New Year, one that will be most successful and productive for you and your academic achievements, as the past year has been for all of us.

Edward D. Frohlich, MD
*Editor-in-Chief*

Richard N. Ré, MD
*L. Gabriel Navar, PhD*
*Associate Editors*
Annual Progress Report: Our 20th Anniversary Celebration
Edward D. Frohlich, Richard N. Ré and L. Gabriel Navar

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