

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

This is the first issue of the *Journal of Nematology* to be published since my appointment as its Editor-in-Chief. It provides a most timely opportunity to express my appreciation to the 1998–1999 Executive Board of the Society of Nematologists and Editorial Board of the Journal for soliciting and approving my candidacy. Most importantly, I want to thank the membership of the Society for supporting this decision. Entrusting me with the responsibility to uphold the academic integrity of the Society through its primary scientific vehicle is an honor that I am flattered to accept.

The prospect of serving our Society in this fashion is a daunting one, made even more imposing by the successful leadership provided by the committed individuals that preceded me. Each brought a unique governance approach to the position; all were successful in achieving laudable publication standards with respect to scientific content and editorial style. Each Editor-in-Chief made it *easier* for us to compose and submit JON papers. The style manual is a striking example of their collective efforts.

I do not bring to this position a training in traditional Nematology, a background that must have been a considerable resource to our previous Editors-in-Chief. Rather, my education is broadly grounded in genetics and molecular/cell biology. However, I do not believe it was chance alone that the leaders of our Society identified an individual that did not come up “through the ranks.”

Instead of being a caretaker for this position, I am assuming that my appointment is intended to broaden the scope of the Journal in terms of content, visibility, and readership. Creative ideas designed to achieve this goal will be the highest priority of the Editorial Boards during the next three years of my stewardship, and you should not be bashful about approaching any Board member with your own comments. Possible changes that we will be discussing in the near future will be the inclusion of both solicited and unsolicited “mini-reviews” on timely current topics, book reviews, and summaries of recent scientific or policy meetings that SON members may attend. Expansion of Journal content will incur publication costs that should not be imposed on authors, and if we choose new directions such as these for the Journal, I will actively seek modest donations from external sources earmarked explicitly for this purpose.

This letter will also be published in the Nematology Newsletter. Please continue to look for my comments in future issues of the NNL. I look forward to working with the world-wide Nematology community during the next three years to maintain and expand the health of the *Journal of Nematology*. Thank you all for your support in this important endeavor.

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