Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

The end and the beginning

This is the final issue in the yearlong celebration of the 20 years of publication of *Immunohematology*. Dr. Ralph Vassallo is the guest editor of this issue and it is another exceptional collection of reviews and original publications. Dr. Ralph Vassallo is a Medical Director at the Penn-Jersey American Red Cross and an Associate Medical Editor for *Immunohematology*.

We thank the four guest editors, Christine Lomas-Francis, Msc; Scott Murphy, MD; Sandra Nance, MS, MT (ASCP) SBB; and Ralph Vassallo, MD; and the authors of the reviews and original articles of the four issues of the 20th anniversary year. Each issue was superb and will be used as reference material by many. Christine Lomas-Francis gave us an issue devoted to an up-to-date review of the blood groups. Dr. Murphy's issue covered antibodies, primarily to platelets, in conditions related to NAIT, PTP, TRALI, and ITP. The issue edited by Sandy Nance is another wonderfully useful issue for serologists and clinicians, covering causes of drug-induced anemia; what to do when all units are incompatible (crying is not acceptable); and evaluating a patient with hemolytic anemia. The final issue, that of Dr. Vassallo, finishes with four excellent reviews covering a mixture of articles about the function of blood group antigens, managing patients with anti-IgA, and those who have received incompatible hematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation. An important review to everyone who orders and receives blood is the one that discusses the function of the American Rare Donor Program (ARDP). Two original articles and a letter from Dr. Tibor Greenwalt, who started the two rare donor programs that make up the ARDP and who is this year’s recipient of the AABB Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award, finish off the year.

All of this was planned by the 20th Anniversary Committee—Mary McGinniss, Delores Mallory, Scott Murphy, Sandy Nance, Jerry Sandler, and Christine Lomas-Francis—and was executed by the guest editors and managed by Mary McGinniss, managing editor. The final issue was co-managed by Mary and Cindy Flickinger, and produced by many others who worked hard to make this journal look so good and read so correctly.

We should not forget all of the authors who have contributed articles over the last 20 years, nor the readers who subscribe each year and tell us how much they enjoy *Immunohematology*. It is a unique journal that fills a need of our readers. We hope it will continue to fill that need for 20 more years.

The next 20 years will be even more exciting as great news awaits our readers in 2005!

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief
Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

To Contributors to the 2004 Issues

The journal depends on readers, authors, editorial board, peer reviewers, and our Penn-Jersey staff. We wish we could thank all of you personally, but doing so is not practical. Instead, we thank each of you as members of an honored group.

First and foremost, we thank the authors for their reviews, scientific articles, case reports, book reviews, and letters to the editors that come not only from the United States but from many countries of the world. This has given the journal an international flavor.

Our editorial board is a prestigious one and we depend on them, not only for peer reviews, but for guidance in policy and suggestions for improvements. Special thanks go to our medical editors, who review every article for medical content, and to Christine Lomas-Francis, MSc, our technical editor, who reads every article for technical content. The current board is listed by name in the front of each issue of the journal.

Our peer reviewers did a wonderful job in 2004. In each December issue we list them by name with thanks to each.

Patricia Arndt, MT(ASCP)SBB
A.J. Hibbard, MD
Marilyn K. Moulds, MT(ASCP)SBB
Paul Ness, MD

James P. AuBuchon, MD
Christopher D. Hillyer, MD
Lawrence D. Petz, MD

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Connie Howard, MT(ASCP)SBB
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Virginia Hare, MT(ASCP)SBB
Joann Moulis, PhD

Stephen M. Henry, PhD
John J. Moulds, MT(ASCP)SBB

We also want to thank the staff at Penn-Jersey, Linda Berenato and Marge Manigly, who do everything else to get the journal ready for press. They word-process all articles, keep up with subscriptions, and handle all e-mail, to name a few tasks. We also thank Lucy Oppenheim, our copy editor; George Aydinian, our proofreader; and Paul Duquette, our electronic publisher.

Finally, thanks go to our readers, whose enthusiasm and interest in the journal make it all worthwhile.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief
SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

Mary H. McGinniss, AB(ASCP)SBB, Managing Editor of Immunohematology, Retires

Mary McGinniss began her career as Managing Editor at Immunohematology in 1986, when the journal was only 2 years old. Mary, a research biologist, had just retired from the National Institutes of Health's Department of Transfusion Medicine after an exceptional career that spanned 30 years. She published many papers during her career and is probably best known for her original research with Dr. Louis H. Miller and the discovery of the association of Duffy blood groups with malaria.

Mary's work with Immunohematology has been the foundation on which the journal rested for the past 18 years. She edited each issue meticulously, with love and skill. Her sharp eye was the reason each issue was virtually error-free and so consistently true to the style of Immunohematology. At a time when many other journals seem to have more and more errors, Immunohematology had Mary, who handled each issue with the care and precision that she applied when performing a compatibility test.

She styled all of the manuscripts for the past 18 years. For many authors whose first language was not English, Mary rewrote entire paragraphs of their manuscripts, for which they were most grateful. One of Mary's joys in life has been to mentor new authors, guiding them in writing effective scientific articles. She has a rare editorial talent that many persons who have published in Immunohematology will attest to.

She also had an amazing ability to organize four issues each year: 25–30 manuscripts and authors, 50–60 reviewers, proofs, index, "ads," corrections, returns to the authors, and on and on, until each issue was published. Immunohematology is published only quarterly, so hers was a part-time job—she took it to give her something to do for a few hours a day! And she could always retrieve back information, even a year later.

Mary is a joy to work with. She never forgets deadlines and gets things done on time. She is happy and can always find a way through a crisis—hurricane, snowstorm, blood shortage, sick kids or cats, no matter the problem. Maybe retiring helps lend an air of calm. Authors and coworkers enjoy the time they have conversing with Mary. She is always helpful, knowledgeable, and available. It's not often that a managing editor has the talent and background that ours did.

Mary McGinniss will be missed by the authors whose papers are better for her talent and attention, by the staff with whom she worked over these 18 years, and, to a degree that can not be expressed, by me. It was one of the best days of my life and for Immunohematology when Mary called and said she was ready to work! We dedicate this issue to her, knowing well that every issue is an individual tribute to her excellence, dedication, and love.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief