COMMUNICATIONS CONT’D

Letter From the Incoming Editorial Staff

With Special Thanks to Delores

We take this opportunity to celebrate the years of leadership that Delores Mallory has given to *Immunohematology*, Journal of Blood Group Serology and Education. Delores became the editor-in-chief in 1984 and has held that post through this year, for a total of 21 years!

One of us (GM) first met Delores when she was at Hoxworth and Delores was in Dayton. Delores’ gregarious style was evident then as it is in her position as editor-in-chief. One could see that she truly enjoyed “blood banking”—discussing the difficult cases, learning new techniques, and educating technologists and physicians. Her enthusiasm was infectious (let’s not screen this out of the blood supply) and she made everyone feel very comfortable discussing immunohematology together—from technologist to researcher to physician.

Through her leadership, the journal made the transition from a newsletter, *Red Cell Free Press*, to the peer-reviewed quarterly publication *Immunohematology* in 1988 and to academic journal status indexed by *Excerpta Medica* in 1992. This has been a dynamic evolutionary process.

The editorial board expanded to encourage first-time manuscript writers to publish. And that it did! Delores has helped many fledgling authors on their way—from requesting that a manuscript be written, to offering her time and help in its writing, to moving it through the review and revision process and to its final publication. Going forward, we will continue that tradition.

Delores has a gift for networking and “coercing” leaders in the blood bank world to write review articles on timely topics. She also has encouraged medical and technical experts in the field to become peer reviewers for submitted manuscripts. With Delores’ influence, *Immunohematology* has contributing authors and peer reviewers from all over the world. Her enthusiasm and zest for blood banking and for the educational purpose of *Immunohematology* have driven the success of this journal, so much so that it is currently cited in *Index Medicus*.

In spite of a heavy travel schedule since retirement, Delores has continued to perform duties as editor-in-chief and to lead the journal as a volunteer. She has been paramount in knowing the “perfect” peer reviewer for each manuscript and in offering her help in moving the issues to press. She truly has *Immunohematology* in her veins. We plan to celebrate her success and contributions to the journal at the AABB conference in Miami Beach in the fall of 2006, provided she does not have travel plans that interfere.

We wish her the best as she moves forward with her life and we thank her for all of her time and effort in making *Immunohematology* the successful journal that it is today.

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