From the Chief Editor

My role as an Editor of FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology started in 1999 when I was invited to join the FEMS family by Loek van Alphen, then Chief Editor. I continued as an Editor after Loek stepped down in 2003 and Alex van Belkum replaced him. I have now accepted the role of Chief Editor, starting in January 2008.

The journal FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology lives in the modern world of electronic submission, online publication and impact factors and must continue to develop its own identity in this world. As Chief Editor, I am first and foremost committed to oversee the publication of original, primary research articles and MiniReviews of the highest quality possible. The impact factor is on the upswing as the journal is slowly but surely reaping the fruits of its inclusiveness of research performed in all corners of the world, and in all corners of the field of infectious disease biology. While areas such as molecular diagnostics and epidemiology, and the ever-dissolving boundaries of molecular pathogenesis, innate and adaptive immunity, and cell biology will continue to be the realm of FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology, other areas such as virology, vaccinology and genome-based biology are primed for expansion.

The Journal’s continued growth owes immensely to the hard and dedicated work of Alex van Belkum and the dedicated staff in the Delft FEMS office. The vacuum left by the departure of Alex must be filled and I am extremely pleased to welcome Professor Jacques Schrenzel, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, as an Editor for FEMS Immunology and Medical Microbiology, where he will bring outstanding expertise in infectious disease and genome research.

In the end, the research we perform is only as good as the words we use to report it. The scientific message that journals convey must, therefore, be: clear, so that it can be easily understood; exact, so that it can be reproduced; truthful, so that it can be trusted; and meaningful, so that the reader is inspired to read on. As Chief Editor, I ask and thank in advance the Editors, reviewers and, last but not least, the authors themselves for their commitment to reaching this standard of excellence.

Patrik Bavoil
Chief Editor

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