

Editorial

In 2011, after several months of discussions about the perspectives of an International Journal **PROTISTOLOGY**, a group of active protistologists from St. Petersburg finally succeeded in formulating the needs for some changes and reorganization of the Editorial Board accompanied by certain improvements aimed at keeping the Journal at the forefront of its field. For the sake of optimally serving the needs of its authors and readers, we have agreed to better provide quality control over the contents of manuscripts submitted to the Journal, their scientific English language and general managing procedure. Moreover, while most of us retain the interest in publishing “classical” papers on eukaryotic microorganisms, we believe that modern biological work should become in future very much a part of **PROTISTOLOGY**. Finally, I was asked to act as the Editor-in-Chief of our Journal since January 1, 2012.

The overall operation of a present-day scientific journal is a time-consuming task of exceptional complexity, especially when the editors serve purely as volunteers. Nevertheless, we decided to start this work taking into account that **PROTISTOLOGY** is supposed to play a major role in the present and future activities of our Protozoological Society affiliated with Russian Academy of Sciences.

At the first phase of reorganization, it was decided to share the duties and responsibilities of the Journal processing within the Strategic Editorial Team (SET) which will be composed of the Editor-in-Chief and three Deputy Editors: Andrew Goodkov, Yuri Mazei, and Irena Telesh. SET will be assisted by other members of the Editorial Board who will be involved in providing focused and timely refereeing and participate actively in maintaining the quality of our Journal in every aspect. Additionally, in near future we are planning to enlarge the Board of Reviewers.

We are glad to announce that since 2012, the Journal is fully peer-reviewed and included in the catalogue of the Russian Scientific Electronic Library (<http://elibrary.ru/>).

We are pleased as well as honored by the kind decision of the Protozoological Society affiliated with Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Cytology of Russian Academy of Sciences, and Penza State Pedagogical University to co-sponsor the Journal for the next two years. The logotypes of these institutions are now at the back side of the Journal's front cover.

At present **PROTISTOLOGY** is one of the five “organism-oriented” journals for researchers of protis-tan material. Our Journal will continue to publish manuscripts on the whole spectrum of lower Eukaryote cells including protozoans, lower algae and lower fungi. **PROTISTOLOGY** will publish original papers (experimental and theoretical contributions), full-size reviews, short topical reviews (which are supposed to be somewhat “provocative” for setting up new hypotheses), rapid short communications, book reviews, symposia materials, historical materials, obituary notices on famous scientists, letters to the Editor, comments on and replies to published papers. Chronicles will present information about past and future scientific meetings, conferences, etc. Comments will be not refereed; however they may be selected, edited, or rejected as considered appropriate by Editors. Authors are asked to provide suggestions for referees in their field.

Traditionally, **PROTISTOLOGY** will continue to be an open access journal which is published both on-line and as hard-copy version. Accepted papers will appear on-line in PDF format before the final version is available in print.

The on-going reorganization procedure gives me the opportunity to thank Sergei Karpov, Sergei

Fokin and those of our colleagues that have served enthusiastically their terms on the Editorial Board of *PROTISTOLOGY* for many years and kindly agreed to back up this joint action in future. I also thank the members of the Board of Reviewers who decided to support the Journal in this role.

We encourage protistologists to publish with us on multidisciplinary topics, and invite participation

of our non-Russian colleagues. We continuously need your support to maintain the quality and status of *PROTISTOLOGY*, and we welcome your manuscripts and suggestions.

Sergei O. Skarlato
Editor-in-Chief