

EDITORIAL

A bright future

2016 was another year of change for *RBMOnline*, most notably with the arrival as Chief Editor of Bart Fauser in January (Fauser, 2016a). This change at the helm, together with the appointment Mina Alikani (Alikani, 2015) and Juan Garcia Velasco (Garcia Velasco, 2015) as new editors at the end of 2015, provided an impetus for a review of arrangements, leading to some changes in the journal's editorial structure. Thus, in November 2016, seven new sections were established, replacing the previous 11, each section being overseen by a named panel of 3-4 section editors who now have more responsibility for shaping the content of each section (Fauser, 2016b). These changes have been accompanied by a new profile of section editors. Thus, we thank departing section editors Ashok Agarwal, Giuseppe Benegiano, Ursula Eichenlaub-Ritter, Kay Elder, Sarah Franklin, Yacoub Khalaf, William Ledger, Yves Ménézo, Luciano Nardo and Nichole Noyes for all their hard work over the past years as they move to our editorial board or emeritus editorial board, and we welcome our new section editors Richard Anderson, Christophe Blockeel, Erma Drobnis, Antonio Gargiulo, Aaron Hsueh, Ioannis Messinis, Emlyn Parfitt, Anja Pinborg, Pierre Ray and Emre Seli. You will also notice that there are changes to the design of the cover and text from this month, which we hope that you appreciate.

Many of the papers arising from the burgeoning field of the study of social and cultural implications of new reproductive technologies that formerly would have been in *RBMOnline* now find a home in the journal's online-only, open-access companion publication *Reproductive BioMedicine and Society Online (RBMS)* (www.rbms.com) launched in June 2015 at the ESHRE meeting in Lisbon (Franklin and Johnson, 2015) and now in its third volume. During the coming year, both journals will be moving from the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) to a new custom-designed EVISE system, which will make submitting papers easier and faster as well as streamlining the editorial process.

Against this background of changes, the editorial office staff remains dedicated to the production of our first-rate journals. Caroline Blackwell, as ever, has been the mainstay of the office, keeping the editors on track, and, as the public face of the journals, bearing the brunt of the media, mail and phone enquiries and fronting the *RBMO/S* stand at the ESHRE meeting in Helsinki. Our deepest thanks to Caroline for all her dedicated hard work! The submission rate continues to be healthy, a challenging task for her, and for Catherine Field and Maria Murphy also in the editorial office, to whom likewise our editorial deepest thanks.

The *RBMOnline* impact factor remains high, and the maintained submission rate of quality papers (610 from January to the end of October in 2016, compared with 613 for the same period in 2015) which is inevitably accompanied by a high rejection rate – running at 78% for papers submitted during the first half of 2015 – the latter always difficult for us as we strive to help authors to improve the quality of content and presentation rather than to reject their manuscripts outright. In part this increased popularity of the journal comes from our ability to move rapidly, which enables us to engage with and stimulate controversial debates, for example our papers on the vexed question of European patenting (Sterckx et al., 2017a,b; Pearce, 2017a,b) and the use of artificial oocyte activation (van Blerkom et al., 2015; Santella and Dale, 2015; Ebner and Montag, 2016).

With more papers, and with our continuing efforts to minimize the time from submission to publication, comes the need for more reviewers. Encouraging potential reviewers to accept invitations to review for us is an important part of the publication process. To assist in this, the Elsevier Reviewer Recognition platform was launched for *RBMOnline* and *RBMS* at the end of 2015. This feature provides the opportunity for reviewers to receive acknowledgement for this important aspect of the publication process. Reviewers now have the possibility to claim reviews for Elsevier and non-Elsevier journals and the ability to create a public review profile. More information is provided at www.reviewerpage.com.

Now entering its seventh year, the annual Robert G Edwards Prize Paper Award has

become an established and welcome element in the range of activities of our journal. The papers published in 2015 resulted in a long-list of 10 papers, that was reduced to a short-list of four papers by our section editors, any one of which would have been a distinguished recipient of the award, but the truly outstanding article chosen by our senior editorial panel to receive the award was 'Fresh and cryopreserved ovary transplantation and resting follicle recruitment' (Silber et al., 2015). Remarks from section editors about this paper included the following comments: 'This is an exemplary paper reflecting how far fertility preservation has come and how successful it has become. Until recently it appeared that this approach was not going to be too successful. This paper shows that 17 babies from 22 recipients can be attained. Marvellous.', and 'This paper comes from a great depth of clinical and surgical experience, opening up future possibilities. The data provide an impetus for many of us in the broader area of clinical reproduction to more boldly assist women in both fertility and age-related gynecology.', and 'It isn't so much the transplantation data that I find exciting, it is new fundamental information about follicle recruitment and ovarian function'. We congratulate the winning and short-listed authors for their excellent contributions to our journal! Work will now start to select the best paper from those published in 2016. Further information about the selection process and past winners can be found on the *RBMOnline* website (www.rbmojournal.com).

Our editorial panels constitute a veritable *Who's Who* of assisted reproduction! The members help us with advice and refereeing, and to all of them we express our thanks for their commitment to *RBMOnline*. Our reviewers and authors are our life-blood and we thank all the past year's reviewers by name in the prelims. Thanks also to the staff at Elsevier, led by Greyling Peoples, for their continuing commitment to the efficient production and promotion of the journal. Finally, the editors would like to express their appreciation to Kamal Ahuja and the Board of Reproductive Healthcare Ltd for their continuing moral and financial support for the journal, and to Eddie Kuan and David Hoskins.

We wish a productive and exciting 2017 to all those involved with *RBMOnline* and

RBMS – our contributors, editors, reviewers and, of course, our readers!

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