

## Editorial

As the year ends and a new one begins, it is time for change in the *Journal of Genetics* itself. Improvement rarely comes without a change in management; yet, new management has to be refreshing, thoughtful, dynamic, and with ears to the ground, if change has to be for the better. Amitabh Joshi, who will succeed me as the Editor-in-Chief after this last issue of 2007, has all the qualities needed to inject new growth and directions to the journal. A population geneticist, Amitabh's scientific interests lie at the core of the journal's history. Yet, he is familiar with the molecular, cellular and developmental aspects of genetics, and we can therefore expect initiatives in the whole range of the journal's mandate. Amitabh is of course no stranger to the journal and has most recently served as one of its Associate Editors and has shouldered more than his fair share of responsibility. While this has resulted in his being given even more responsibility — as is always the case — Amitabh's love for genetics and the journal will make this, I am sure, a pleasant duty. A very warm welcome to Amitabh.

Two prominent geneticists and colleagues on the editorial and advisory boards of the journal passed away this year and I should use this page to record their demise, acknowledge their support to the journal, and to promise that we will carry articles on their scientific contributions soon. John Edwards died on 26 October 2007, aged 79. He was formerly Professor and Chair of Genetics at Oxford and, before that, held positions in Philadelphia, Cornell and Birmingham. He and others described in 1960 the eponymous Edwards syndrome associated with trisomy 18. Edwards contributed regularly to the journal and advised Professor H. Sharat Chandra on its running when the Indian Academy of Sciences took over the journal from the Haldane estate. The world of genetics is additionally poorer with the recent loss of Seymour Benzer (30 November 2007), who served for many years on our advisory board. In a career that saw many new fashions in biology come and go, Benzer's science was characterized by innovation and daring to go where others had not.

In an earlier editorial, I had said that it was vital that the journal be online in every aspect if it was to make an impact. An alliance between the Indian Academy of Sciences and Springer now allows the journal to use an online facility for submission and review. The alliance also means that *Journal of Genetics* is available on Springerlink ([www.springer.com/12041/](http://www.springer.com/12041/)) to subscribers in addition to being available freely as before from the Academy's webserver ([www.ias.ac.in/jgenet](http://www.ias.ac.in/jgenet)). The tie-up with Springer should also give the journal more worldwide exposure and help the journal grow to become a major journal in the field. The new team, headed by Amitabh, fully realizes the effort involved to achieve this and I am sure you all join me in wishing them all the best and, importantly, in giving your continued active support to the journal.

I thank all the staff of the Academy's office, especially the editorial staff of *Journal of Genetics*, for their support.

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