

New Systems for the Korean Journal of Pathology

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It is my great honor to write an editorial on this meaningful issue of the Korean Journal of Pathology as co Editor-in-Chief. Thanks to the dedication of remarkable pathologists in Korea, the Korean Journal of Pathology has continued to grow in both quality and quantity. And the Journal in the present shape has significantly benefited by the leadership of Professor Woon Sup Han, President of the Korean Society of Pathologists, and Professor Jeong-Wook Seo, my predecessor as Editor-in-Chief, and efforts of present and former members of the editorial board, Associate Editors, and Editors-in-Chief. While the Korean Journal of Pathology has always been a qualified peer-reviewed journal for more than 40 years, its sphere of activity has mostly been national. However, as the Journal being indexed in the SCI-expanded and having a record number of submissions in 2008, and with increasing interests of pathologists abroad, the internationalization of the Journal has emerged as a clear and present task.

As of March 2009, a new English website for the Korean Journal of Pathology (www.koreanjpathol.org) has been launched along with a new electronic submission and review system. The new website has been designed as easily usable, containing archives of both Korean Journal of Pathology and Korean Journal of Cytopathology, which are merged from this issue. According to the decision of the joint editorial board, the contents of the website are open to everyone worldwide. The submission and review system has been renovated targeting both national and international authors and reviewers.

With the new system, the Korean Journal of Pathology will retain its tradition of comprehensive and experimental attitude as the leading pathology journal in Korea. The Journal also has set forth several goals in 2009.

By becoming more international in scope and publishing excellent articles, we believe that the Journal soon will be listed in the Index Medicus, and its citation rates and upcoming impact factor will rise. We plan to be more discrete in selecting the papers we publish. The Korean Journal of Pathology is currently rejecting 15-20% of articles. Although it is one of the most difficult jobs for editors to discriminate precious results of hard-working researchers, it appears to be inevitable that the rejection rate be raised, considering the increasing amount of submissions. On the other side, we will strive to be assured of the quality of peer review and editing decisions. With operating the new review system, the speed and validity of peer review will be observed by 'editors-in-charge' from subspecialty fields. Editorial policies and responsibility will precede editorial freedom and privilege. We will also continue to maintain high standards of ethics in writing and publishing.

It is true that it burdens me to take over this position at this critical time, but I look forward to working with my co Editor-in-Chief, Dr. So-Young Jin, and the editorial board to pursue and watch the continual progress of the Korean Journal of Pathology. As always, we thank all readers, authors, and especially for unseen contributions of reviewers and editorial staffs.

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