

## Editorial

Welcome to *mom*. This journal has newly evolved from and replaces *Oral Microbiology and Immunology*, which has been a significant journal in the field since its inception in 1986. It is interesting to reflect that, in 1986, black-pigmented anaerobes and spirochetes were emerging as pathogens in periodontal disease and glucosyltransferase genes were first being cloned from oral streptococci. DNA sequencing, polymerase chain reaction, and new culturing technologies, developed during the 1990s, propelled the field of oral microbiology into a truly molecular era. By the turn of the twenty-first century there were new names for bacteria, new faces and ideas, and a realization that oral microbiology research contributed significantly towards better understanding of biofilms and microbe–host interactions, especially at mucosal surfaces. Few studies now do not incorporate some notion of molecular biology into fulfilling their aims and objectives.

With all these developments in mind it was felt to be time for a name change for a journal that has been representative of oral microbiology and immunology research for over 20 years. *mom* has a new Aim and Scope, to reflect the wider impact of oral, nasopharyngeal and upper respiratory tract microbiota in health and disease, a new Editorial Board, and a completely new design. This is a Wiley-Blackwell publication produced in the same vein and similar style to the very successful journals *Molecular Microbiology*, *Cellular Microbiology*, and *Environmental Microbiology*.

Our aim is to have the new title up among the very top microbiology and dental journals in terms of impact factor within a few years. This is going to require good marketing, a conscientious and dedicated Editorial Board, and the belief from the scientific community that we can do it. Above all, we need

the research community to consider *mom* the journal of choice for their best work, and we know that the best oral microbiology is also equivalent to the best microbiology in any other field.

The new Scope of *mom* is shown on the front cover of this February 2010 first issue. The Scope is more specifically defined by Oral Microbiology and Respiratory Tract Microbiology (Molecular, Cellular, Genetics, Ecology); Periodontal Disease, Gingivitis, Dental Caries, Biofilms; microorganisms such as *Streptococcus*, *Porphyromonas*, *Candida*, *Staphylococcus*, *Pneumococcus* and anaerobes; Innate Immunity; Mucosal Immune Responses; Cell Receptors; Infection Models; and Systems Biology. We will not be publishing immunology-alone papers, only work directly related to microbial colonization or infection.

We will act as Chief Editors, and five Associate Editors have been appointed in the first instance. The seven of us will comprise the handling Editors for the time being. We are very pleased to have now formalized the positions of further regular reviewers into an Editorial Board of well-respected and active scientists with wide expertise.

We would like to emphasize that in the Scope, we aim to cover microbiology and immunology of the respiratory tract, as well as of the oral cavity. We will offer a high-quality, fast turnaround journal. It is also important that we are stringent in our requirements in order to establish a high-class journal, so we will publish only those papers that make highly significant and novel contributions to the field.

We very much trust that you will seriously consider submitting to *mom* your research papers or short reviews appropriate to the remit of the journal. This is a unique opportunity to establish a scholarly journal that will take on the best.

H.F. Jenkinson and R.J. Lamont

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