

Editorial

Water, it is thought, will be the single greatest factor in terms of supporting the sustainability of the world and human health and welfare in the 21st century. Among many other aspects related to human health, water has an important role in transmission of infectious diseases. The aim of health related water microbiology is to minimise the role of water in such transmission and the pending challenges for those working in the field are enormous. But the activity in health-related water microbiology covers many different aspects. In spite of the existence of several excellent scientific journals where those working in the field can publish their research, at present no scientific journal covers all these different aspects. The Health Related Water Microbiology Symposia have partially covered this need in the last 25 years and the Proceedings of these Symposia, published in *Water Science and Technology*, have been a very useful and appreciated tool for covering information on all these topics. Some of the most significant scientific articles in the field had been published in these particular issues of *Water Science and Technology*.

The IWA Publishing Company has decided to launch a new peer-reviewed journal: the *Journal of Water and Health*, devoted to the dissemination of information on the health implications and control of waterborne microorganisms and chemical substances in the broadest sense. It invited the Health Related Water Microbiology Specialist Group to help set it up. At the same time, very well known scientists of the Group working on different

aspects of the field and representing different geographic areas have accepted the challenge of acting as editors at the different levels. Sincere thanks to all of them.

As indicated above, besides covering all the different facets of Health Related Water Microbiology, the journal will cover other health problems related to water consumption. In addition, it is the intention of this Journal to provide a platform for scientists in developing countries to communicate their work. We think that this will be extremely beneficial for the researchers of both the industrialised and developing countries and will help in providing sustainable solutions for supplying safe water for everybody.

However for the success of this venture, the enthusiastic support of all the researchers in the field is needed. Launching a new journal is a difficult challenge, but making a good journal and maintaining it is still more challenging. We need you to submit good papers, to help in revision if invited to, to cite, if they deserve it, the papers published in the Journal, to subscribe to it and to encourage the libraries of your institutions to subscribe to it. My feeling is that as scientists working in the field we cannot let the opportunity pass us by.

Joan Jofre

Chairman

**Health Related Water Microbiology Specialist Group
International Water Association**