

## Editorial

# Tribute to Pelayo Correa, M.D., Founding Editor, *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, & Prevention*

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In 1991, Pelayo Correa was appointed the first Editor-in-Chief of CEBP.<sup>1</sup> Over the next 6 years, he labored tirelessly to establish CEBP as a premier cancer subspecialty journal. His record of successes is clear. Manuscripts submitted to CEBP have increased 4-fold during his tenure, and journal pages have nearly doubled. CEBP has achieved international stature and broad readership; nearly one-fourth of published papers are from researchers outside the United States. According to SCI Journal Citation Reports, numbers of citations of CEBP publications increased more than 20-fold between 1992 and 1996 (1). Among approximately 60 journals in public health, CEBP has consistently been ranked in the top 10% by the Institute for Scientific Information.

The successes of CEBP have resulted from the dedication of Dr. Correa, his Associate Editors, and members of the Editorial Advisory Board. Pelayo's loyal office staff indicated that he typically devoted more than 1 day each week to the journal. Despite the workload, Pelayo continued to be a highly productive investigator who has published nearly 400 papers during his distinguished career. He is a dominant figure in epidemiological and etiological research on cancers of the upper gastrointestinal tract, most recently on the oncogenic potential of *Helicobacter pylori*. Thanks are also due to Dr. Elizabeth T. H. Fontham, Assistant Editor, who worked with Pelayo to make CEBP a very successful and respected publication.

Success often breeds more work. Dr. Correa has been asked to take on additional responsibilities at Louisiana State University Medical Center. After serving more than two decades as Professor of Pathology, Pelayo was appointed the Boyd Professor of Pathology in 1996. Recently, he accepted the position of Cancer Center Director at his institution. His local responsibilities and research interests prompted Pelayo to ask the AACR Publications Committee to find a new CEBP Editor. Pelayo leaves an outstanding record as Founding Editor that, speaking plainly, will be a hard act to follow.

As the new Editor-in-Chief, I will attempt to build on Pelayo's many achievements. I have asked my colleague, Dr. Arlene Kantor, to serve as Assistant Editor and help me with the daily management of the journal. Arlene and I have worked together for more than 2 decades at NCI and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. I was delighted that she accepted the assignment, particularly after thick stacks of manuscripts started arriving once or twice weekly.

As biomedical researchers, we are living in exciting times. Knowledge is accruing rapidly in the areas of cancer epidemiology, biomarkers, and prevention. Mastery of all these broad disciplines is impossible, and I am constantly struggling to keep up. To sustain CEBP in the next millennium, I will need to modify the structure of the Editorial Board and manuscript review procedures to further enhance the quality of our published manuscripts. I will be sharing leadership of CEBP with a small group of new Senior Editors, who will oversee review of manuscripts and help set editorial policies. My intent is to preserve the existing structure of Associate Editors and Editorial Advisory Board. They have performed the bulk of the manuscript review, and I thank the current members for their dedication to AACR and CEBP.

I am delighted to announce that Dr. John D. Potter is the new Senior Editor for Epidemiology; Dr. Fred F. Kadlubar is the new Senior Editor for Biomarkers; and Dr. David Alberts is the new Senior Editor for Prevention. The review of each manuscript submitted to CEBP will, therefore, be led by a distinguished researcher with personal knowledge of the specialty area. Additionally, I am pleased to report the appointment of Dr. Caryn E. Lerman as the new Senior Editor for Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Lerman's appointment is a recognition of both her scholarly achievements and the increasing importance of behavioral sciences in the prevention of cancers due to smoking, dietary factors, and other personal habits. Recently, NCI restructured the former Division of Cancer Prevention and Control into two new Divisions, the Division of Cancer Prevention under Dr. Peter Greenwald and the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences under Dr. Barbara Rimer. The recent paper by Kramer and Klausner indicated that NCI budget allocations for cancer prevention and control research increased by 121% from 1993 to 1997, which vastly exceeded the increases of 10–20% for other research areas; this trend is likely to continue (2). Dr. Lerman's appointment ensures that the journal's priorities will be consonant with NCI's future program plans and goals.

In forthcoming editorials, I will report on new peer review procedures to speed publication of original research. I will also describe a series of new initiatives to increase the utility of the journal to working scientists in our areas of interest. A top priority is to strengthen ties between the journal and the American Society of Preventive Oncology as well as the newly established Molecular Epidemiology Group of the AACR.

## References

1. Institute for Scientific Information. SCI Journal Citation Reports. Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, 1997.
2. Kramer, B., and Klausner, R. Grappling with cancer-defeatism versus the reality of progress. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 337: 931–934, 1997.

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<sup>1</sup> The abbreviations used are: CEBP, *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, & Prevention*; NCI, National Cancer Institute.