Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I thank the board of the French Society of Hand Surgery for entrusting me the responsibility of our Journal.

In the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors, I shall do everything I can to strengthen and develop the quality and the reputation of our Journal.

I hope that you will bear with me during the first few months, and I will be attentive to all your suggestions and comments (thierrydubert@gmail.com).

1. A French-speaking Journal!

This is the only Journal of hand surgery in which it is possible to publish in French. It is the official channel of the French, Swiss and Belgian Hand Societies; it is also the natural Journal for all the French-speaking countries – a vocation which must be preserved.

2. An international Journal!

International access is easy thanks to the referencing in Medline database. Articles are accessible in PDF and full text versions for subscribers at www.em-consulte.com/product/chimai, and for institutions through www.sciencedirect.com. The possibility of publishing in English allows us to welcome manuscripts from all over the world. Our Journal is viewed on all the continents! We will also be open to the developing countries, which are of an invaluable source of scientific energy.

3. An original Journal!

We do not compete with the European or American Journals. The vocation of our Journal is to collect and to spread a certain concept of surgery of the hand. Our cultural identity – complex and multinational – combines rationalism with creative boldness. It has been at the origin of innumerable, now internationally recognized advancements and discoveries. We have to preserve this originality, without ignoring the international standards (conflict of interest, evidence-based medicine, etc.).

4. Aims

My aims are as follows:

- to welcome more commissioned articles. The editorial team is supplemented by assistant editors who – each in his domain – will summon the corresponding renowned authorities;
- to ensure a high linguistic quality in French as well as in English thanks to a systematic validation procedure prior to publication;
- to accelerate the publishing process by recruiting and training more reviewers. The authors will benefit from a prompt treatment of their submissions as well as constructive criticism to improve their manuscripts. I will organize training courses about reviewing scientific manuscripts at every GEM meeting. This is an invitation to all candidates!

I thank all of you who contribute to the development of the journal; your selfless efforts are the testimony of our scientific vigor.

T. Dubert
Editor in chief
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