



Pituitary: *hic manebimus optime*

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This is my first Editorial as Editor-in-Chief of *Pituitary*, and it is my pleasure and honour to welcome all the old and new readers of the *journal* which I am sure will either continue to be or become, the common house for discussing and enjoying the latest advances in basic and clinical pituitary science.

Pituitary under the extraordinary efforts of historical Editor-in-Chief and founder of the journal, Dr. Shlomo Melmed, that all the fans of the master gland must acknowledge for tremendous dedication and outstanding job, was brought to achieve a very strong reputation in the scientific community [1].

When the Pituitary Society and the Growth Hormone Research Society (GRS), of which *Pituitary* is the Official journal, together with Springer, the well-known publisher of the journal, developed the idea to ask me to become the new Editor-in-Chief, I did not have any doubts about accepting this task. In fact, since its foundation I perceived *Pituitary* as the natural place where to publish my work and I thought it was the time to give it back something to a journal that made so much for my growth as a clinician and scientist although I was conscious that the challenge was huge for at least two reasons: first, the exceptional work done so far by Dr. Melmed not only a great man and mentor for me, as for many others in the field, but a close friend raising *Pituitary* to the top endocrine journal level (clearly, as a side note, I asked his availability to continue to be actively involved in “his” journal as Founder and Editor Emeritus)! Second reason was that, as many of you know, I already had a long standing experience as Editor in Chief of *Endocrine* [2, 3]

and I was then conscious of the heavy requirements of this job in terms of time and dedication.

You as authors, readers and stakeholders of the journal are probably at this point curious to have some anticipations about the lines along which I am ready to move toward the future of *Pituitary*.

First of all, I want to express to the readers that still do not know my style my concepts of being an Editor-in-Chief developed during many years of service together with giants in the field of endocrine academic publishing such as Dr. Melmed. The main principle that I learnt is that running a journal is a classical team effort in which Associate Editors, Editorial Board, reviewers, and publisher should work closely together for an optimal quality of the produced output. In fact, the final goal is always to publish the best science possible that, however, due to space constraints of which all the journals suffer, often requires close calls that need to be made objectively relying on an efficient peer-reviewing process.

As mentioned above, under Dr. Melmed’s leadership *Pituitary* has become not only the official journal of two major Societies in the field (initially and for all its life so far of the Pituitary Society and more recently, thanks to the great efforts of my friend Felipe Casanueva, of the GRS) but also the reference point for a community at large that currently recognizes the journal as the obvious venue for publishing results or thoughts that could be impactful on peers of the same neuroendocrine field. Therefore, as a roman soldier said in my ancestors’ language (according to the report of the famous Latin historian Titus Livius) “*hic manebimus*” which means that we are here to maintain the excellent level to which *Pituitary* was brought continuing to be the common house of all neuroendocrinologists. But not only. since the roman soldiers added, again according to Titus Livius, “*optime*” which implies that we are also here to further grow the Journal and its reputation. In fact, my first step as an Editor -in-Chief will be to effectively enlarge the editorial team. I will run the journal together with a brilliant team of Associate Editors inherited by Dr. Melmed, which will be joined by Luigi di Filippo, a young, talented

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and already very prolific researcher [4] working closely with me in Milano at San Raffaele Vita-Salute University. All the Associate Editors are highly committed colleagues with solid scientific backgrounds and strong experience in handling research papers. I know from direct previous experience of cooperation with them that they will continue to do a fantastic job being a steady reference for all authors. Moreover, we will work hard towards a very strong Editorial Board with diverse backgrounds and skills encompassing basic and clinical aspects. In fact, the inspiring concept, in which I always strongly believed and used in my previous leadership experiences, for choosing the Board members, will be *inclusion and diversity*. This means that the Board will be not only carefully balanced in terms of gender and geographical representation (pituitary research has undergone a global expansion during the years) but also in terms of specialties that are crucial for the care of pituitary diseases. In fact, as most of you know, currently in the multidisciplinary team which is mandatory for dealing at best with pituitary tumors [5] the neuroendocrinologists works together with other specialists such as neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, radiation oncologists and neuropathologists as well depicted by recent papers on the Pituitary Tumors Centers of Excellence [6, 7]. We would like to attract to *Pituitary* most of the science produced by all above mentioned specialists, together or not with neuroendocrinologists, and we will work closely with their representatives in the Editorial board in this direction.

We expect from this excellent Board not only precious advice but also high level contributions that will certainly benefit the journal. With their help, we are willing to choose the best reviewers for all the submissions that will pass the in house triage, a difficult task currently for any journals due to the overwhelming requests and the limited time that experts may dedicate to this voluntary service, also valuing the contribution to the process of young and motivated scientists. Our final aim will be to keep to a minimum the time between submission and first decision which is already at an excellent standard. All manuscripts will be handled via the SNAPP system recently developed by Springer the publisher of *Pituitary*, known internationally as a strong organization highly committed to academic publishing. Springer will also run the Editorial Office but based on my previous experience I know that authors love to directly connect in some instances with the Editors. Therefore, there will be a dedicated e-mail (EICPituitary@gmail.com) to which it will be possible to address either burning questions concerning submissions or new proposals and suggestions. In terms of other opportunities for innovation I think that pituitary medicine offers a unique scenario for scientific publishing. The strong cross-talk between either basic and clinical researchers [8–10], or between the different hypothalamo-pituitary

axes and metabolic environments [11], or with other non classical endocrine systems such as the heart and bone [12–14]; our fastly developing understanding of the mechanisms underlying pituitary diseases [15] including treatment resistance [16, 17]; and, finally, the incredibly rapid advent of new molecules [18, 19] or dose regimens [20, 21] for the pharmacological treatment of secreting pituitary adenomas all make the world of neuroendocrine publishing rich of novel elements that the journal is keen to capture. This, associated with our willingness to publish new information in developing areas of neuroendocrinology—such as the pituitary involvement in infectious diseases like COVID-19 [22–24]—will hopefully be one of the secrets of the continuing success of this journal.

One final touch will be to offer to *Pituitary* authors, for stimulating even more their interest for the journal, new categories in which it will be possible to contribute to the journal. In fact, on one hand, besides publishing classical original research articles on every aspect of pituitary medicine we still think that authoritative and timely Reviews are of great value to the readers, and we will count on the contribution of the best experts in the world. In this respect, also unsolicited Review proposals will be carefully considered. We will also introduce Mini-Reviews, as rapid and concise discussion of particularly hot topics. Inasmuch, international guidelines, recommendations, surveys and the emerging area of meta-analyses in pituitary diseases not only from Pituitary Society and GRS but from other authoritative bodies or groups will continue to find in *Pituitary* an excellent vehicle to reach our dedicated community [25–30]. On the other hand, it will be possible to submit preliminary data not sustaining full papers in form of Brief Reports, for which an even faster turnaround as compared to Original Articles will be granted. We also think that most readers like to see expert views or position statements on current, particularly (but not necessarily) clinical, controversies [31, 32]. Our role will be to solicit contributions, such as Editorials, Viewpoints/Perspectives, Extensive clinical experiences as well as Novel methods in neuroendocrinology, from authoritative international experts with different visions on discussed issues. To reconfirm dedication of *Pituitary* as a forum, Letters to the Editor with comments on recently published articles or brief novel observations will also be exceptionally published. Finally, in the novel News and Views category we will host contributions on particularly relevant to the readers activities/initiatives of the Pituitary Society and GRS tightening the links between these Societies and their official journal.

In conclusion, the editorial and publishing teams of *Pituitary* will produce all their efforts in order to provide the best service to the neuroendocrine international community. Besides the above briefly reported lines of development we remain open to every contribution intended to improve the

quality of the Journal, of which I am ultimately responsible. I leave to you authors and readers to verify if Pituitary will from now onwards perform according to the *hic manebimus optime* sentence as per title of this Editorial in the end satisfying all your expectations.

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