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Three cheers for Charley

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As of this issue Dr. Charles Goodlett has handed over the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Alcohol*, and I have taken on this position. I think I can speak on behalf of the readers, authors, editorial board and publisher in congratulating Charley for his outstanding leadership of the journal. It is easy to judge the success of Charley's editor-ship by the numbers, such as increased impact factor (from 1.714 to 2.468 which is by far the highest IF ever for the journal) and increased submissions (up more than 30% in 2012 relative to 2005). However, those of us involved in journal operation know that the change has been much more profound. Charley inherited a journal with a solid footing in the field, and has improved the standing of the journal in many ways. A renewed emphasis has been put on standards of review and publication, resulting in detailed, mechanistic and high quality basic research publications along with an increased representation of papers on human alcohol abuse and alcoholism. New subjects and approaches such as proteomics, circadian rhythms, use of transgenic/gene-targeted animals, and others are now featured in *Alcohol*, and we foresee continued inclusion of exciting new science in the years to come. Informative and provocative special issues have provided a forum for much-needed debate, a trend that we intend to continue. Reports on important meetings help to keep readers abreast of the latest developments in alcohol research. The esprit de corps of the editorial board is high. Charley instituted or improved all of these aspects of the journal through his exemplary leadership and wise choices. From the beginning he emphasized rigorous review and the need for quality articles. He added energetic and critical investigators to the editorial board, and expanded the pool of reviewers. Charley also ushered in the era of electronic review and manuscript handling at *Alcohol*, increasing the timeliness of decisions and publication. Last, but certainly not least, Charley increased the visibility of *Alcohol* by tireless promotion at meetings and by encouraging authors to submit strong papers. While it may not be proper to offer a toast to Charley (maybe a non-alcoholic one?), he certainly deserves a hearty cheer.

As I assume the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Alcohol* it is my goal to capitalize on the momentum that Charley built. The general policies and subject matter of *Alcohol* (described online at <http://www.alcoholjournal.org/aims>) will remain the same. Editors and editorial board members will strive to increase the quality of submissions by staying abreast of new developments in the field and encouraging submissions from a broad spectrum of investigators. Creation of special issues, review articles and editorial comments on timely and sometimes controversial topics will be regularly featured in the journal, but will by no means crowd out the peer-reviewed research articles that are the main feature of any quality journal. I will strive to recruit editors and editorial board members with the expertise,

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dedication and energy to continue the ascent of Alcohol. I will also work with our editorial board and publishers to increase the visibility of the journal. Importantly, all investigators associated with the journal need to uphold the highest ethical standards by being vigilant for research misconduct, and by ensuring that submission and review are fair and conducted with appropriate safeguards for authors and reviewers. We need to be certain that journal policies are well known and that we adhere to these policies. It is an exciting time in scientific publication, as internet resources allow for new modes of communication as well as better illustrations and graphics. As editors, we will try to stay abreast of developments in online publication and take advantage of technological advances where possible. Our goal is to make Alcohol the leading venue for publication of certain aspects of laboratory research and human studies in the field. However, we can only achieve this goal with the help of our reader-ship and authors, and thus I appeal to you to submit your best work to Alcohol, read the journal on a regular basis, and communicate your enthusiasm for journal content to your colleagues. I, in turn, can assure you of my dedication to the journal, and my accessibility and willingness to discuss submissions, journal content and journal policy with all interested parties. Just as Charley will remain part of the journal through continued service on the editorial board, we hope that you too will remain part of the journal family whether as readers, authors or board members. While we wish Charley the best and know that he will enjoy the increased time he will now have for other scientific endeavors, we hope that together we can continue to build a journal with which he will be proud to be associated.