

Editorial

This issue is the last one for *Animal Research*. A new journal, *Animal* will appear in February 2007 by the union of *Animal Research*, *Reproduction Nutrition Development* and *Animal Science*, with the ambition to create a more important journal considered as a reference for scientists in the field of Animal Science. This journal is created under the auspices of the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), owner of *Animal Research* and *Reproduction Nutrition Development*, of the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), owner of *Animal Science*, and of the European Association of Animal Production (EAAP) who was looking for a partnership with a new journal.

The forerunner of *Animal Research* was the French journal *Annales de Zootechnie* which was created by INRA in 1952 and dealt with all aspects of animal biosciences. A first division occurred in 1960 when all nutritional aspects were transferred to a new journal *Annales de Biologie Animale, Biochimie, Biophysique* which later became *Reproduction Nutrition Développement* then *Reproduction Nutrition Development*. The other fields remained in *Annales de Zootechnie* until 1969 when a new division occurred, genetic science forming a new journal, *Annales de Génétique et de Sélection Animale* which later became *Génétique, Sélection, Evolution* then *Genetics, Selection, Evolution*. *Annales de Zootechnie* changed with time. The first English papers appeared in 1974, and the proportion of papers in English progressively increased but was less than 50% until 1997. By this date it rapidly increased and the change of the title to *Animal Research* in 2001 resulted in the disappearance of papers in the French language. At the same time, we started working with a new publisher, EDP Sciences, whose dynamism contributed to a better international visibility of our journal. The number of submitted manuscripts largely increased, but our level of demand too, so that the number of published manuscripts did not increase.

Today is a new step in the life of our journal. Genetics and nutrition merge again with other aspects of animal sciences. New topics which were already in the scope of *Animal Research* such as welfare, product quality and livestock farming systems, and new approaches such as modelling will be developed in the new journal.

This last issue is the opportunity to thank our publisher EDP Sciences for its valuable contribution to the development of *Animal Research*, the associate editors who rapidly became essential for manuscript evaluation, the language editor who contributed to improve writing by non-native English speakers, and the referees who accepted to review the manuscripts. Most of the persons with editorial activities in *Animal Research* will now act for *Animal*. We hope that the authors and referees will also go on with the new journal.

Michel DOREAU
Editor-in-chief

Nadine MIRAUX
Technical Editor