

Greetings from your new Editor-in-Chief of *VCOT* Editorial

The publication of this issue of *VCOT* coincides with yet another milestone in the life of our Journal, and I feel both privileged and excited to be taking my seat at the desk of the Editor-in-Chief. Of course, Prof. Geoff. Sumner-Smith, our founding Editor-in-Chief for the past twenty-one years has guided us through many changes and developments, especially in recent times with the rapid advancement in the ways of scientific publishing (1). And so as *VCOT* 'comes of age', I suspect that Geoff, like any 'proud parent', is experiencing a feeling of great accomplishment tinged by slight anticipation as the journal forges ahead in the scientific world under new leadership. While the advent of the electronic age has streamlined the publication process for *VCOT*, we must keep clearly in mind that the mission and core values of *VCOT* have remained unchanged. Since *VCOT* first came into being, the mission of this journal has been to disseminate new, interesting and clinically relevant knowledge to clinicians, academics, specialist surgeons, and researchers in the fields of veterinary and comparative orthopaedics and traumatology. Both the authors and readers of *VCOT* come from all points of the globe, giving the Journal a true international foundation on which new ideas and concepts can be exchanged. Although papers published in *VCOT* must be written in English, we maintain a very strong editorial commitment to support the publication of manuscripts from those authors for whom English is a second language, provided the scientific content of the paper is sound. Of course, decisions about the latter are guided by the recommendations of the reviewers, while the former is mainly a matter for the editors.

The opportunity for me to have a greater level of interaction with the authors and readers of *VCOT* in my new role as Editor-in-Chief coincides with another new challenge in my professional life; namely my appointment to a new academic position at my *alma mater*, the University of Sydney, Australia. However, this move to the other side of the world should have minimal impact on

my ability to fulfill the duties of Editor-in-Chief, now that the peer review and processing of manuscripts submitted to *VCOT* through Manuscript Central have become well established. In addition, I will be assisted by a new member of the editorial team. It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Simon Roe to the position of Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *VCOT*. As a fellow country man, Simon has been a long-time friend, colleague and collaborator, and I am very happy that he has agreed to take on this role and contribute his expertise to *VCOT*. He is currently Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at North Carolina State University, and has developed an international reputation as surgeon, mentor and researcher with a particular flair for advancing our understanding of clinically-relevant orthopaedic biomechanics.

In the future, we are looking forward to new developments and improvements in *VCOT*, the first of which is the transition to six issues per year. I would be particularly grateful to hear your thoughts about either the format or scientific content of *VCOT*; either as an e-mail or a 'Letter to the Editor'. The latter is a valuable forum for scientific discussion of different points of view, which up till now has been under-utilized. It is important to appreciate that one characteristic of a true professional is the ability to engage in rigorous scientific debate with a colleague, even in a public forum, without any real or implied personal criticism. Such a debate is often helpful in elucidating confusing concepts, or for defining a direction for future investigation. It would be a pleasure to hear from you. I look forward to working with you.



Kenneth A. Johnson, Sydney
Editor-in-Chief

References

1. Sumner-Smith G. The old order changeth, yielding place to new. As it is with nature so it must be with *VCOT*. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol* 2008; 21(2): Editorial.



Prof. Kenneth A. Johnson,
Editor-in-Chief



Prof. Simon Roe,
Deputy Editor-in-Chief