
Editorial

Nicolas Foray

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale,
INSERM CR-U1052,
Radiobiology Group,
Cancer Research Centre of Lyon,
28 Rue Laennec, 69008 Lyon, France
Email: nicolas.foray@inserm.fr

André Maïsseu has created a non-governmental organisation, the World Council of Nuclear Workers (WONUC) and a network (LOWRAD) gathering, in the low-dose radiation research field, a unique web of journals that he led as Editor-in-Chief. By his actions, he has provided and still provides significant efforts in the dissemination of knowledge about many fields around radiation research and in the organisation of meetings in which scientists, physicians and nuclear workers meet together and produce valuable science. André Maïsseu and the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Low Radiation* proposed me last year to become the new Editor-in-Chief of this journal. By thanking all the members of the Editorial Board and especially André, to whom I pay tribute sincerely and warmly, I have accepted this difficult task.

Nowadays, radiation biology and radioprotection are at a major turning point in its history. They must meet the expectations of radiation oncologists, radiologists and the general public, but their respective purposes remain the same: to understand the molecular, cellular and tissue levels of lethal and carcinogenic effects of ionising radiation and to better protect healthy tissues and populations. Research about the low-dose effects is also at a major turning point. There is to date a very significant increase of the knowledge of specific biological phenomena such as adaptive response, hormesis, hypersensitivity to low doses and even bystander effects. Overall, the individual factor is a key point to be estimated, whether in terms of toxicity or of radiation-induced cancer risk.

Hence, in the particular context of the Fukushima events and the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, I will endeavour, as Editor-in-Chief, to provide any study that shows significant advances in the low-dose research and leads to a better understanding of the biological and clinical impacts of medical, environmental, occupational and accidental exposures to radiation. Our journal will undoubtedly contribute to establish bridges between researchers and the general public, especially over the major concern of the evaluation of the risk. This great opus of André will continue to progress and I wish for him all the best as Honorary Editor-in-Chief.