The purpose of this Editorial is to make our readers and contributors aware of new areas of focus and types of articles that can be submitted to *AJP–Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology*. We believe that these new areas of focus will enhance the Journal through publication of novel scientific perspectives and by providing a forum for scientific interaction.

A new feature of American Physiological Society (APS) publications that was started last year is entitled *Perspectives*. Submission to this category will now be considered for publication, either as an invited or uninvited submission. This new category of article is designed to disseminate new and original lines of thinking. These short articles go beyond the scope of Invited Reviews and should present original ideas that can be derived from our current knowledge base. Some *Perspectives* articles may challenge current dogma and will be considered for publication based on the scientific merit of the argument presented. These *Perspectives* articles will be subject to peer review; they should be ~1,500 words long, excluding references, and may include two figures. They are different from an Editorial Focus because they do not necessarily comment on an article published in the same issue of the Journal. *Perspectives* is also different from a review article in that it is not primarily a scholarly review of the published literature on a given scientific topic. Instead, the *Perspectives* articles provide an opportunity for the authors to consider new directions regarding current scientific issues and to debate in a scholarly way the pros and cons of specific scientific issues. For example, the role of apoptosis vs. necrosis as a mechanism for alveolar epithelial injury is an important scientific issue in many acute and chronic lung diseases. Whereas a review article could survey the evidence related to apoptosis and necrosis of alveolar epithelium, a *Perspectives* article might provide a viewpoint that will stimulate additional research as well as healthy scientific debate. In this vein, a *Perspectives* article with a pro and con viewpoint will also be considered.

As our readers know, this Journal, along with other APS journals, has emphasized the value of translational physiology, and we continue to invite our authors to submit original manuscripts in the field of translational physiology that bridge the gap between basic lung, molecular, and cellular physiology and patient care. We would like to emphasize and strongly encourage the submission of manuscripts that are based on human studies and human samples that provide new insights into pathogenesis and prognosis of human diseases. Although we do not anticipate publishing the primary results of clinical trials, we believe that it is valuable to publish articles related to studies of biological markers and related primary cells or other clinical materials that provide new insights into the mechanisms of disease. Translational manuscripts can be based on animal studies that have a strong relevance to a human disease, particularly when the approach employed could not be easily done in humans or with human materials.

Finally, although *Letters to the Editor* have not been published in this Journal in the past, we would like to encourage readers and authors to submit *Letters to the Editor* that will be reviewed by the appropriate Associate Editor to be considered for publication. Naturally, the authors of the article to which the letter to the editor is addressed will be given the opportunity to respond. We believe that this mechanism will make the Journal more interesting and vital by providing a forum for scientific interaction.

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