

We were greatly disappointed and saddened to hear that SpringerNature has decided to close down the editorial office of the *Journal of Molecular Medicine* at the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) Berlin Buch, where it has been based since the journal's modern inception in 1995. The success of the journal is in large part due to the tireless efforts of the editorial staff members who have worked hard far beyond the call of duty to ensure rigorous peer review and timely assembly of the journal's issues. Your decision to close the MDC office without consulting the editors comes as a shock to the editorial staff who will now have to seek new employment at a very short notice and also see this lack of consideration on behalf of SpringerNature as a sign that the editorial staff's loyalty and dedication to the *Journal* have not been valued.

The name Springer and the emblem have been a hallmark of scientific publishing for well over 100 years. The fact that the name now appears to be lowered to solely financial expediency will come as a shock to a scientific community around the world that relied on Springer journals, text books and other publications.

As a for-profit publisher, SpringerNature has the right to close or move editorial offices of its journals. Nevertheless, it is important to point out that a scholarly journal is not like any other marketable product. The reputation and quality of scholarly journals depends on the efforts of the editorial board members who review and commission high-quality articles without receiving remuneration because they believe it is a necessary service to the scientific community. As such, they are all key stakeholders in scholarly journals even if they are not shareholders.

As you may know, the *Journal of Molecular Medicine* is one of the very few biomedical research journals which publish peer-reviewed original research articles and review articles in basic research, translational research and clinical research, thus covering an extraordinary breadth and depth of biomedical research. As such, it continues the legacy tradition of its predecessor *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*, founded in 1864. The editors identified Prof. Dr. Martin Lohse at the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine as a new editor-in-chief who would succeed Prof. Dr. Detlev Ganten upon his retirement. This choice was a consensus decision reached by the current editors because it was felt that the new editor-in-chief would continue the strong legacy of interdisciplinary scholarship at the *Journal* and the experience of the editorial staff.

However, the unilateral decision of SpringerNature to disregard the recommendations of the editorial board without engaging in any dialogue or discussion with the editorial board has jeopardized the future and scholarly legacy of the *Journal*.

All of us came to the decision that we can no longer, in good conscience, continue to serve as editors or editorial board members of the *Journal of Molecular Medicine* and we hereby resign.

We hope that, in future, SpringerNature will actively engage all major stakeholders instead of making unilateral decisions about the future of its scholarly journals.

Sincerely,
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