

Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology: The Evolution of AGA Publishing

This is an exciting era for gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and pancreatology research. The resources at our disposal include a staggering array of models, including specimens from healthy human subjects and patients, and an ever-growing armament of tools that allow us to investigate biology from the atomic to

the community level. Despite many challenges, rapid progress continues and is punctuated by frequent reports of translational and clinical advances. Another encouraging indicator is the high regard accorded to leading journals in gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and pancreatology research as well as to general interest journals that publish related work. Nevertheless, there is a pressing need for a premier, laboratory science-focused journal in the area of gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and pancreatology research. *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (CMGH) will be that journal (Figure 1).

The lessons of time, as well as published and anecdotal data, show that basic research discoveries are critical to fuel subsequent translational and clinical advances. There are numerous examples of studies of cellular or physiologic mechanisms that had no clear relationship to disease but ultimately served as essential foundations for translational studies that led to therapeutic advances; we will not list them here. It has, however, become difficult to publish gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and pancreatology research without direct translational relevance. There are exceptional journals that publish outstanding basic research related to digestive health and disease, including *Gastroenterology*. However, these journals have additional clinical and translational missions and expectations, so they often decline—based on publication priority—rigorous research lacking specific links to disease. As a result, researchers submit and publish such high-quality work in journals associated with other fields, such as biochemistry, cell biology, immunology, or physiology. This limits dissemination of new information to investigators for whom the work is most relevant. A new journal that fills this void and provides a high-quality venue for outstanding gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and pancreatology research is, therefore, urgently needed. We have the privilege to work with the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) to inaugurate such a journal.

Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology will publish studies related to a broad spectrum of themes in gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, and pancreatology research. The work we aim to publish will be rigorous, hypothesis-driven, and mechanistically novel. There will be no requirement for a disease or translational aspect to the work, although we will welcome studies with such links. In addition to work that might be categorized as basic cell and developmental biology, biochemistry, genetics, immunology, molecular biology, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, or physiology, we anticipate that CMGH will become a preferred venue to showcase outstanding integrative



Figure 1. ■■■

COMMENTARY

119 research that falls between traditional
120 disciplinary boundaries.

121 We intend for CMGH to enhance
122 several forms of communication within
123 the greater gastrointestinal research
124 community. We will, therefore, publish
125 commentaries, editorials, and focused
126 reviews in addition to full-length orig-
127 inal articles and brief reports. In this
128 way, CMGH will become a forum for
129 discussions of major breakthroughs
130 and a home for insightful debate.

131 CMGH will be a basic science sister
132 journal to *Gastroenterology* and *Clinical*
133 *Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, rou-
134 nding out the AGA's scholarly publishing
135 portfolio. We will accept submissions
136 starting June 1, 2014, and we will pub-
137 lish the first issue in January, 2015. We
138 will assess manuscripts in the most
139 efficient and fair manner possible, which
140 the AGA and their publishing partner,
141 Elsevier, will facilitate using their
142 extensive resources.

143 We see CMGH as an evolutionary
144 advance in gastrointestinal, hepato-
145 biliary, and pancreatology research
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publishing. To promote the availability
of the breakthroughs reported in CMGH
to all, articles will be freely available
without subscription. Also, CMGH will
be completely web based, which will
allow readers to download individual
articles, topic collections, or entire is-
sues from the journal's website or app.
In this way, the most important infor-
mation will be as close as your tablet or
laptop. We will maximize the function-
ality that digital publishing affords
us—for example, we will post articles
within 72 hours of acceptance, publish
themed collections of content based on
an extensive nomenclature developed
by Elsevier, integrate animated figures
to further advance communication, and
take advantage of the virtual micro-
scope and other interactive technolo-
gies. Also, the journal's website will be
mobile optimized so that you can read it
anywhere, anytime. We are excited
about the future that lies ahead—it is a
revolutionary time in scholarly pub-
lishing and we intend to be on the
cutting edge.

We look forward to your support in
this exciting new venture and to
working with our authors, readers,
editorial board members, and re-
viewers to establish CMGH as the pre-
mier basic science journal that covers
the broad spectrum of digestive health
and disease.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors disclose no conflicts.

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