I am extremely pleased to announce formally that as of April 2013 Clinical Therapeutics (CT) is now the official journal for the European Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT). CT will cover EACPT’s meetings and EACPT’s member organizations will have preferred access to CT. From our perspective, this is a tremendously valuable association. It not only expands the scope of our readership, but it also increases the expert reviewer pool for submissions to CT. The larger the pool of qualified and committed reviewers, the shorter is our turnaround time from submission to print and online publication. Furthermore, the aims of EACPT are completely consonant with the goals and scope of CT. This is particularly important as globalization and harmonization of drug development continue to increase. We particularly value EACPT’s aim of contributing clinical pharmacology expertise to policy decisions regarding drug regulation in Europe. As a follower of the European Medicines Agency’s (EMA’s) actions, it is clear to me that clinical pharmacology expertise is as central to EMA’s rulings as it is to the Food and Drug Administration’s approval process in the United States. We look forward to a valuable and expanding collaboration between CT and EACPT.

Richard I. Shader, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief

The European Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics is delighted to be launching with this issue of the journal its affiliation with Clinical Therapeutics, in partnership with the major international publisher Elsevier. This interaction is timely both in view of the increasing need to meet international therapeutic challenges and new developments at the journal, including broadening its remit to include the pharmacology underpinning successful therapeutics.

The essential aims of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics are that the right medicines are available and are delivered to the right patients at the right dose, at and for the right time, and in a safe way. To achieve these aims requires combining traditional good practice in medicine with new approaches to drug discovery, and reliable monitoring of drug safety, clinical and cost effectiveness and health impact, supported by excellence in drug regulation and pharmacovigilance. Through the impact of Moore’s Law and Metcalfe’s Law on the life sciences, we are now also at the cusp of affordable translation of new technologies, such as pharmacogenomics, from research tools to clinical practice to improve treatment of patients.

The idea of a European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics arose in the 1980s from a working party supported by the World Health Organisation-Europe. The EACPT was founded 20 years ago and now includes all national organisations for clinical pharmacology in Europe, representing over 4000 individual professionals interested in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics.

The EACPT has a major interest in promoting the safe use of medicines across Europe and internationally, and has supported these aims since 1995, through biennial international scientific congresses, and summer schools, with delegates and presenters from around the world. The EACPT also advises health policy makers on criteria for approving drugs and for regulating medicines after licensing for clinical use. The EACPT also interacts with reimbursement organisations and public health providers, helping with priority-setting in these difficult times for our health systems.

Two forthcoming relevant EACPT activities are a summer school for young clinical pharmacologists in Edinburgh from 4-6th July 2013 and the next EACPT congress, from 28th – 31st August in Geneva. The
summer school provides an intimate forum for experts and young clinicians and scientists to discuss new developments in the discipline. The Geneva Congress will bring together over 900 delegates and speakers from around the world. These will include health professionals, clinical and life scientists, policy makers, professionals from the biotechnology and pharmaceutical communities and others interested in the spectrum from basic to clinical pharmacology and pharmacotherapy, and from drug discovery to regulatory affairs. Key themes at the congress will range from bedside pharmacology for special patient groups, to pharmacology and toxicology, and pharmacology and society. Further sessions will include new biologicals, translational medicine and pharmacogenetics, advances in personalised diagnostics to improve the safety and effectiveness of medicines, updates on new biological approaches to ocular disease, therapeutics of cardiovascular, cancer and inflammatory disease, clinical trial design and regulation, drug safety and toxicology, clinical trial design and governance, health policy, communicating with the public, and safe prescribing. There will also be sessions on the safety of drugs, and on the European and international regulatory environment.

Clinical Therapeutics provides an excellent way for the EACPT to continue to develop and enhance its international contributions to development of policy and practice within Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and related disciplines. The EACPT will jointly appoint, in discussion with the senior editorial team at Clinical Therapeutics, a series of international regional and specialty editors to help to develop both the journal and EACPT, aided by the large community of experts in Clinical Therapeutics and Pharmacology in Europe and their global collaborators in academia, clinical health services, industry and the health policy communities.

In parallel, EACPT Congresses and workshops will provide excellent source content to showcase the Journal on issues of topical international concern to the international CPT community, the public, and policy makers, through timely and accessible peer-reviewed articles and commentaries. Clinical Therapeutics will also be supported by the EACPT in providing for its international audience a cross-disciplinary forum for discussion of the role of CPT in supporting and leading development of health policy in relation to medicines.

Professor Donald Singer
Secretary, EACPT

Professor Gonzalo Calvo Rojas
Chairman, EACPT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Professor Singer is Secretary of the EACPT, new International EACPT member of the Clinical Therapeutics Editorial Board, and Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Warwick in England. Professor Calvo is Chairman of the EACPT and Consultant in Clinical Pharmacology at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona in Spain. From 2001 to 2011, he was Member of the Committee for Human Medicinal Products (CHMP) and Chair of the Cardiovascular Working Party at the European Medicines Agency.

REFERENCES