Goodbye and thank you
Leo van de Putte

The year 1999 was a landmark year for the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) and BMJ Publishing Group: the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases (ARD), the world’s oldest English rheumatology journal, became the official journal of EULAR, from then on being co-owned by both organisations. This marriage has proven to be a success story; the growing importance and influence of EULAR in the field of rheumatology in its broadest sense being mirrored in a very well kept and managed journal.

It has been a great experience and honour for me to have been the first editor of the journal in its new role, starting in July 1999. From then on there have been quite a few changes. A very important one was that the manuscript handling and processing became totally electronic, allowing for a substantial increase in efficiency and speed. In addition, the Online First facility of the journal now ensures an extra speeding-up of getting accepted papers into the public domain, usually in only a few weeks after acceptance.

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The new Editor greets you
Tore K Kvien

It is an honour, an opportunity and a challenge to take over the position of editor of the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases (ARD). Professor Leo van de Putte has, during his almost nine-year editorship, developed ARD to become the leading rheumatology journal in Europe.

The connection with the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) has facilitated a huge readership and the shared ownership of the journal between EULAR and BMJ Publishing Group has created opportunities for fast and effective communication of science in rheumatology.

Will there be changes in the journal with the new editor? The only visual change in this issue is many new names among the Associate Editors, in the Editorial Board, and on the Advisory Committee. All previous members who have completed their term have made tremendous contributions to the journal. Many of the new members of the Editorial Boards represent a new generation of young rheumatologists and scientists who will further enhance and

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