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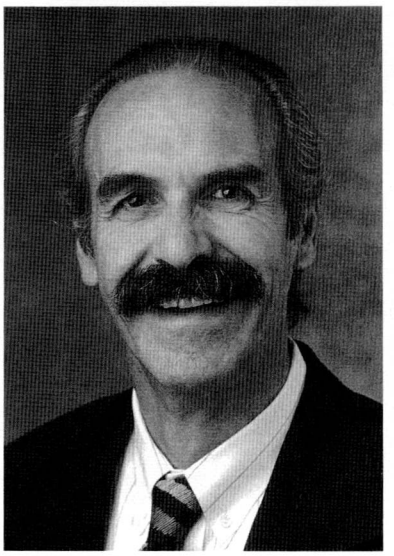
Editorial

Since its inception in 1988, *Visual Neuroscience* has emerged as the premier journal for empirical and theoretical papers on the neural bases of vision. It has been said that the visual system is the window on the brain, a window in the sense that it is an excellent model system for studying general questions pertaining to brain function, its development, how it changes during aging, and so on. Furthermore, the visual system is amenable to virtually every method and approach that is being brought to bear in modern neuroscience, from molecular and cellular biology, to systems and cognitive neuroscience, to computational modeling. Indeed, one of the advantages of working on the visual system is that anatomical, physiological, and behavioral methods are more easily applied in concert to a particular issue than typically is possible in other systems. So, *Visual Neuroscience* has greater relevance to the broad field of neuroscience than the name implies, and our readership and citations reflect that.

Beginning with the founding editor, Dr. Katherine Fite, and continuing with her successor, Dr. James McIlwain, the editorial style of *Visual Neuroscience* has been friendly and personal. Authors receive timely reviews that are constructive in content and tone. In addition, authors can call or e-mail the Editor to discuss their papers and the reviews. As the third Editor of the journal, I intend to continue with that editorial style. Experience shows that the effort is well repaid by the submission and publication of high quality papers from outstanding scientists.

The field of visual neuroscience has become increasingly diverse, and it is impossible for one person to be expert in all areas. Because of that, and because of the large number of papers that are now submitted to the journal for publication, several changes have been made in the organization of the Editorial Board. There are now four Associate Editors who will play an important role in manuscript review. In addition to being outstanding and respected visual neuroscientists, the Associate Editors represent a wide range of methodological approaches (e.g., anatomy, pharmacology, physiology, neurochemistry, behavior), levels of analysis (from molecular to systems), and visual system structures (from retina through extrastriate cortex). Authors are now asked to submit their manuscripts in parallel to the Editor (original plus three copies) and the Associate Editor of their choice (one copy). The Editor and Associate Editor will then confer on the choice of reviewers, and the manuscript will be sent out for review from the editorial office in Boulder, Colorado. Reviews will be returned in parallel to both the Editor and Associate Editor, who will confer on the disposition of the manuscript. These procedures are intended to assure the continued quality and timeliness of the review process.



Peter D. Spear, Editor
Visual Neuroscience

The members of the Editorial Board and I welcome your suggestions for ways to improve the journal. Of course, in the final analysis, the quality of the journal depends on the quality of manuscripts that are submitted for publication. We hope that you will continue to submit your best work and that *Visual Neuroscience* will continue to serve you and the neuroscience community with rapid, high-quality publication.

Peter D. Spear, Editor
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