

Editorial

Thank you to Charu

Starting a new journal is never an easy task. The concept of the new journal *Biological Control: Theory and Application in Pest Management* was initiated in 1989 during one of the UCLA Symposia on Molecular & Cellular Biology titled “New Directions in Biological Control” and held in Frisco, Colorado. At this symposium, Dr. Raghavan “Charu” Charudattan became a catalyst and, along with Dr. Phyllis Moses, who was with Academic Press at that time, recruited Drs. W. Joe Lewis, the late Charlie Rogers, and Harry Kaya to be the founding editors of this new journal. Charu insisted that each editor had equal status. It was clear, however, that Charu was the *de facto* editor-in-chief and it was he who set the tone on organization and the standards by which manuscripts would be accepted. Charu spearheaded the establishment of the first and subsequent editorial boards, wrote the draft for the Guide to Manuscript Preparation, and served as the conduit between the journal and the publisher.

In the first issue of *Biological Control*, Charudattan et al. (1991) stated that “Our goal is a first rate journal that publishes significant contributions in a rapid and efficient manner. The timing and need for such a journal are correct. At present, no journal offers the broad coverage and the accent on current research on biological control envisioned for our journal, and papers on this rapidly expanding field are scattered in a wide range of journals.” The goal of having a first rate journal has been met and the time from submission to publication, for the most part, has been rapid. One of the reasons for the rapid rate of publication is the quick turnaround time by the excellent reviewers that we have for *Biological Control* and the authors themselves.

The past 16 years have gone by rapidly and *Biological Control* has grown from one volume and four issues per year in 1991 to four volumes and 12 issues in 2005. The number of manuscript submissions hovers around 400 plus per year, and the manuscripts reflect the diversity of biological control topics and the disciplines, including entomology, plant pathology, nematology, and weed science, that are involved.

On behalf of the current and past editors and the current and past editorial board members, we thank Charu for the vision of a new journal in biological control and for providing the necessary leadership that has made *Biological Control* the premier journal in the field. We wish him continued success in his administrative and scientific career, and we look forward to his continued association with *Biological Control* as an editorial board member.

References

- Charudattan, R., Lewis, W.J., Kaya, H.K., Rogers, C.E., 1991. Editorial Biol. Control 1, 1.

Harry K. Kaya
Moshe Coll
George E. Heimpel
Martha S. Hunter
Joseph W. Kloepper
David TeBeest
John D. Vandenberg
Felix Wäckers