The new home for the JCI is . . .

The JCI’s editorial board moves from one institution to another every five years—the JCI moved from the University of Michigan to Columbia University in March 2002 and is set to move to another university in March 2007. Recently, a committee of American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) members convened to evaluate the different applications put forward to take on the editorship of the journal. As the JCI went to press, members of the ASCI were returning their ballots indicating whether they agreed with the committee’s recommendation that Laurence Turka and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania would be suitable to take over the leadership of the JCI.

Turka, a renowned physician-scientist working on transplantation immunology, has proposed an editorial board with three deputy editors and 19 associate editors. Together they hope to have the scientific expertise and experience required to understand the many manuscripts that the JCI receives. Deputy Editor Morris Birnbaum has made his mark on science through studying the serine/threonine protein kinase Akt in its regulation of cell size and glucose/insulin signaling. Deputy Editor Stephen Emerson’s research has centered on stem cell biology and bone marrow transplantation. Rounding out the journal’s proposed leadership is former ASCI president Gary Koretzky. Koretzky’s research has focused on understanding the signal transduction pathways present in T cells as they combat infection and destroy cancerous tissues.

The JCI recently sat down with some of the proposed editors to ask them about their intentions, plans, and visions for the years ahead.

**JCI:** How did you choose the deputy editors?

**Turka:** I talked to several of the former editors in chief and asked them how they chose their deputy editors. They said that the JCI was really only worthwhile doing if I could get a group of deputy editors whose scientific accomplishments are respected and who I would enjoy working with. I looked down the list of faculty at Penn, and it was pretty obvious whom I wanted. I was delighted they all agreed to do it.

**JCI:** So, deputy editors, what made you want to be a part of this editorial board?

**Koretzky:** I’ve been part of the ASCI for quite a while now—I was on the council as president of the ASCI. In fact, I was president when the journal moved from Michigan to Columbia, and so I got to know a lot about the journal and the important issues relevant for the transition. The journal plays an absolutely essential role for the biomedical science community—the JCI has a very unique perspective and has become the most outstanding journal in the field.

**Emerson:** Larry didn’t need to convince me. I’m delighted to be part of his effort, really.

**Birnbaum:** Guilt. Promises of enlightenment and intellectual expansion. Guilt.

Peer pressure. Guilt.

**Turka:** See? Morrie is essential for comic relief.

**JCI:** Dr. Turka, we heard you stepped down as chief of the Renal Electrolyte and Hypertension Division. Was that done to make more time for the responsibilities of the JCP?

**Turka:** Exactly right. I’ve been the division chief for eight years, and when I took the job, I thought that staying on for seven to ten years would be the right time frame. It was never my intention to stay in the job forever. Five years is about my limit—if the editorship was 15 years, I wouldn’t have applied for the job.

**JCI:** Are the deputy editors concerned about the added time constraints the JCI will inevitably impose?

**Emerson:** In terms of other commitments, I will definitely reorganize to make room for the JCI, although I haven’t precisely sorted all that out just yet. Committee, lots of journal reviews, work for the American Society of Hematology, even my current administrative role at Penn are all up for grabs.

**Birnbaum:** I am an associate editor of Diabetes now, and that ends during the summer, I believe, so that should free up some time. That experience provides my only information about what this is going to be like.

**JCI:** Dr. Turka, your wife, Barbara Weber, is the current ASCI president-elect. She recused herself from the editorship decision-making process, but now that you have the job, how supportive do you think she will be over the next five years, given that this will take up so much of your time?

**Turka:** As ASCI president-elect, she was very supportive of having the jour-
 Proposed editorial board

<table>
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<th>Editor in Chief</th>
<th>Laurence Turka</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Editors</td>
<td>Morris Birnbaum, Stephen G. Emerson, Gary Koretzky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Editors</td>
<td>William N. Kelley, Craig B. Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior European Editor</td>
<td>Marc Feldmann</td>
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...and yet the ...er than Marc Feldmann — there aren’t many people who have made more significant contributions to basic science and medicine than him. We feel like he could help us very much make the journal better understood in Europe.

Turka: I think you can also look forward to seeing some changes in the electronic version of the journal, which we would like to expand, and not have as merely a replicate of the printed journal.

**JCI: What scientific areas do you most want to develop in the journal?**

Emerson: Given modern progress in targeted therapeutics, I would love to see the JCI publish more molecularly based translational and clinical studies.

Turka: We would like to emphasize a couple of topics that are outside the traditional internal medicine specialties that the JCI usually covers — areas like dermatology and ophthalmological diseases. We’d also like to take a look at things that are going on that relate to medicine but are not necessarily medicine specific, like bioinformatics and information technology and how they interplay in medical research.

We’d like to have ASCI members feel like this is a journal that they really want to publish their papers in. There are a large number of epidemiologists in the ASCI, and yet the JCI doesn’t publish much epidemiological research. Having Harold Feldman as an associate editor will hopefully send a message that we really do want to see those papers.

**Birnbaum: Well, cash is definitely a way to keep me motivated. I guess it has to be intellectually satisfying, or we will lose the best editors.**

**JCI: Are you excited to start?**

Turka: Absolutely. Excited and frightened.

Koretzky: With trepidation. It will be a lot of work. We follow on the heels of outstanding editors, so the bar is pretty high. But I think we can do it.

Emerson: Absolutely.

Birnbaum: Well, if the sooner we start, the sooner we finish, then yes.