Three years ago this month, a new name ushered in the next phase of Analytical and Quantitative Cytopathology and Histopathology (AQCH). The name change reflected the journal’s dynamic focus on the rapidly evolving fields of cytopathology and histopathology.

AQCH originated as a journal devoted to quantitative analysis of digitalized imagery of cytologic and histologic material. Those materials initially found publication in Acta Cytologica, a leading journal of clinical cytology. Increasing interest in procedures and methodology related to pattern recognition, classification theory, multivariate statistics, data mining, and computer science, to name a few, all essential in the field we know as digital image analysis, soon justified the need for a dedicated journal.

AQCH, initially named Analytical and Quantitative Cytology, was first published in 1979 and has been in publication now for more than 35 years. When digitalized image analysis became increasingly applied to histopathologic tissue sections, the name of the journal was updated to Analytical and Quantitative Cytology and Histology.

In 2012 the editors felt that AQCH had much to offer to the field of Anatomic Pathology and Cytopathology, entering the world of human disease with a goal more directed to diagnostics, prognostic predictive markers, and therapeutic targets applied to individual patients—much more in proximity to the areas of predictive (personalized) medicine and systems biology applied to human disease. As a result of this new line of thinking, Analytical and Quantitative Cytopathology and Histopathology was born to publish not only prime-quality digital image analysis studies, but also research on the prediction of recurrence of lesions, on the risks for the development of invasive disease and the development of lesions into highly aggressive forms, on the assessment of the efficacy of chemopreventive or chemotherapeutic agents, and ultimately on a determination of which patients might respond to intervention with a particular agent and how this process can be monitored by testing diverse tissue, cellular, and molecular biomarkers.

In these past 3 years AQCH has published over 160 articles (www.aqch.com), a sampling of which is presented in the References section as a representation of the type of topics covered in a typical issue. Since 2012 the Journal has grown quickly by publishing a broad-based range of articles. Digital image analysis, immunohistochemistry, and molecular pathology technologies applied to cytopathology and histopathology are common subjects of reports published in AQCH.

A brief overview of the articles that appeared
over the last 3 years makes it clear that any major pathology subspeciality is covered by the high-quality publications that appear in AQCH. Of special note is the high number of research studies covering the fields of experimental pathology and urologic pathology. A more detailed analysis on the characteristics and type of manuscripts published by AQCH in these exciting fields will follow as specific Editorials and Brief Reviews in the forthcoming issues of the Journal.

Although AQCH is already the journal of choice for many authors worldwide, it is the editors’ desire to continue to evolve into an even more dynamic journal, with a higher impact factor, in order to provide what authors and readers demand. To accomplish this goal, a new line of editorial activities will appear in forthcoming issues of the Journal, beginning with this Editorial. There will be an Editorial to open the future issues of AQCH, and there will be editorial comments on specific topics of interest to our community, including comments on selected publications that appear in a given issue. Also, we will incorporate Brief Reports to cover selected areas of interest in cytopathology and histopathology fields. Finally, we will give reviewers the opportunity to expand their comments and expertise, producing selected editorial comments that will appear in the journal.

We look forward to AQCH’s continued growth, confident that with these changes AQCH will continue to expand as a dynamic, independent instrument for disseminating novel, technologically sound developments in the fields of cytopathology and histopathology.

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