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It's "Goodbye" from me and "Hello" from him

by Freddie Theodoulou, Science Editor



They say that all good things must come to an end and it is with very mixed feelings that I put fingers to keyboard to write my valedictory editorial for *The Biochemist*. The day job is calling – rather insistently! – and after eight years as Science Editor, it's high time to hang up my red pen and head back to the lab (well, ok, the office). It's been an honour and a privilege to take care of our Society's magazine, a role that has brought wonderful opportunities to meet and work with a host of fine minds and lively personalities. I will miss this enormously and will always feel a tiny thrill when I see a copy of *The Biochemist* lurking in a Departmental coffee room when I'm out and about.

Although I won't miss the pressure to knock out 500 coherent words every two months, part of me doesn't want to go, much like David Tennant as the Tenth Doctor Who, expressing a poignant moment of regret on the brink of regeneration. A little research revealed that *The Biochemist* turns 30 this year and the regenerating Doctors strike me as an apposite analogy for *The Biochemist* editors, with each actor bringing fresh perspective and a different character to a long-running series. Although editorial responsibility was originally shared between Society officers, Roy Burdon and Alan Malcolm, the first General Editor proper was Harry Bedford. Harry was succeeded by Frank Burnet and Richard Reece in 1994 and 2002, respectively, and I started in 2010 which I figure makes me the Fourth Doctor (Tom Baker). Now you are all wondering who will be *The Biochemist's* Fifth Doctor, and, at risk of overdoing the analogy, I am delighted to announce I will be handing the keys of the TARDIS to Chris Willmott in the New Year. I leave Chris in the very capable hands of our in-house Editor, Helen Albert and the magazine's Designer, Rowena Weedon; it has been a pleasure working with them.

It just remains to offer my wholehearted thanks to all the people (past and present) who have helped in different ways to create and produce *The Biochemist*, many of whom have become good friends during my tenure. And all our authors! I continue to be delighted by the willingness of busy and eminent scientists to write for the magazine. No-one gets paid for features and we don't have an impact factor that can adorn a CV, but I can tell everyone who has given up precious time to write engaging and erudite articles that your efforts have been appreciated enormously by our readers. My gratitude also goes out to Wikipedia (not always one hundred percent correct, but spectacularly convenient and so often my first port of call), the Thesaurus function of Microsoft Office Word, the many people who, wittingly or unwittingly, gave me ideas for things to write, 'The Duke' for invaluable contributions to the creative process, but perhaps above all, those of you who were kind enough to say that you enjoyed reading my ramblings. Thank you. ■



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