

With this issue, the first one of year 2010, the Italian Journal of Anatomy and Embryology starts a new period of its long life. Founded in 1901 by Giulio Chiarugi, Anatomist at Florence University, and hence ever devoted to the progress and diffusion of science in the fields of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, the Journal will continue to pursue these goals taking advantage of information technology, thanks to the collaboration with Firenze University Press which takes over the office of publishing the Journal since this issue. The Editor acknowledges the precious collaboration of the printer who has provided for the publication until now, namely Mozzon Giuntina S.p.A. "II Sedicesimo" of Florence.

It is a special honor and pleasure to start the new course with an issue devoted to Prof. Giovanni Orlandini, valuable Histologist and Anatomist and present president of the Italian Anatomical and Histological Society, in the occasion of his becoming Professor Emeritus of the University of Florence by appointment of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

From this issue on, the Journal will be published both on line, complete of colour images, and in printed version, with black and white images. The on line publication will be immediate upon final editing of each article. Printing will be distributed into three issues per year. The online version will be with open access, therefore the articles will be freely readable through the web all over the world.

The printing costs charged to the authors will remain as cheap as possible and will cover both editions, on line and on paper; the authors will receive a PDF digital copy of the article free of charge, and copies of the printed issue where their paper is published can be bought directly from the printer, Firenze University Press.

The Journal will continue to be devoted to publish original, research or review papers dealing with the entire field of anatomy and embryology of vertebrates, from clinical anatomy to cell and developmental biology, with special regard to human and veterinary medicine and including medical education in those fields.

We invite all readers and colleagues to send their manuscripts to the Journal: we will make any effort to ensure quick and constructive reviewing, timely publication on line and regular publication in the press.

The Editor