From the New Editor-in-Chief

It is an honor and pleasure to be able to extend greetings as the new editor-in-chief of Tropical Medicine and Health, a journal with a 54-year history of high quality research and one of the most important publications in the field. I would like to thank the outgoing editor-in-chief, Kenji Hirayama, and the members of the editorial board for their far-reaching vision and relentless efforts to enhance the profile of TMH in the tropical medicine community. During their tenure, TMH introduced an open access through J-STAGE and began to archive articles in the PubMed Central repository, a website that makes it easier for researchers to find and cite TMH manuscripts. I am also deeply indebted to our many authors, reviewers, and readers for their enthusiastic support.

Our greatest challenge now is to continue to improve the journal in such a way as to provide essential and timely information regarding research in the field of tropical medicine and global health. As we address that challenge, we will explore ways to shorten both the submission/review/decision cycle and acceptance-to-publication cycle and to institute changes as quickly as possible.

For the submission/review/decision cycle, our target is a review cycle of “1-6-14” days in which each new submission is assigned to an editorial board member within an average of 24 hours. The editorial board member will then have six days to identify potential reviewers. Reviewers will then be requested to complete their initial reviews within 14 days after receiving the manuscript.

For the acceptance-to-publication cycle, all accepted manuscripts will be published online in professionally copy-edited and typeset form within two months after acceptance. Immediate publication of the preprint form upon acceptance may also be a possibility in the future.

To encourage submissions to TMH, moreover, we are considering the idea of launching a TMH Best Paper Award to be presented annually at the Japanese Society of Tropical Medicine.

Finally, I would like to convey my cordial request to all our contributors for their continued support of TMH. Any suggestions on improving the journal would be greatly appreciated. On behalf of the editorial board and TMH staff, I look forward to working with you and serving the community in the future.

Masahiro Hashizume, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

Masahiro Hashizume is professor of epidemiology in the Department of Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University. After earning a PhD from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, he conducted epidemiological studies to estimate the impact of climatic factors and flooding on the incidence of infectious diseases in Asia and Africa. His current topics of interest focus on the impact of weather and global climate change on health but also include the health risks of air pollution including Asian dust. He was a contributing author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Fifth Assessment Report Working Group II and Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation.