

Editor's Corner

Forward to the Past

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I began this year by looking back over the past two years of the journal *Autophagy*. Thus, it seems fitting that I end the year by looking forward to next year. It just so happens that in looking forward I find myself looking back. In this case, I am referring to the origins of the autophagy field. One series of articles that I plan to include starting next year will focus on the early and intermediate years (at least from today's perspective) of autophagy research, and in particular the people who were involved in that work. I will begin with an article featuring an interview with Christian de Duve, the Nobel laureate who coined the term autophagy.

I think many of the people in the autophagy field have heard of Christian de Duve. But how many of us have thought about the person "in the trenches"? I mean it is all well and good to be running a lab, but let's not overlook the person who was performing the actual experiments. In this case I am referring to Russell L. Deter, the postdoctoral fellow who did the work on autophagy in the de Duve lab. Deter was a young medical student from the U.S. who worked with de Duve at the Rockefeller Institute and then in his lab in Belgium. Deter then continued on this topic for the next decade. Thus, his was perhaps the first lab devoted to the study of autophagy. Therefore, the second article on the origins of our field will be jointly written with Russell L. Deter.

Now, let's return to the present, and even project ahead to the future. In case you do not yet know, although I tried to tell everyone, we currently have an ISI impact factor of 6.71, which is a very good score. That means the papers published in *Autophagy* are being cited frequently. So, it is now time for you to submit your own papers so that you can become part of the early history of this journal. We plan to increase the number of issues we publish next year to accommodate the larger number of papers we are receiving. Once again, I thank all of you who have contributed to the journal so far and I look forward to working with all of you in the autophagy community next year.