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# Fifty years of research on lipids

Edward A. Dennis, *Editor-in-Chief* and Joseph L. Witztum, *Editor-in-Chief*

It is a very special occasion when a scientific journal can celebrate its 50th anniversary as an independent nonprofit publication. On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the editors of the *Journal of Lipid Research* published a special silver anniversary issue containing just over 25 reviews covering all aspects of lipid metabolism and authored by the leading lipid investigators of that time.

In following that tradition, we are very pleased to present the golden anniversary issue of the *JLR*. We chose to present short, forward-looking reviews covering the entire breadth of lipid research consistent with the diversity of topics we seek as editors of the *JLR*. While we have assigned each article to a particular section in the Table of Contents, these assignments are somewhat arbitrary because the section topics overlap so much they are not mutually exclusive. Our goal for this golden anniversary issue was 50 reviews, but we had such an overwhelmingly positive response from the lipid research community in this project that we have ended up with 75 reviews! What a fitting tribute to the role of the *Journal* in promoting lipid research over the past 50 years.

We draw your attention to the rich history of the *Journal* (1) from its founding in 1959 by a group of lipid researchers at the National Institutes of Health Heart Institute, to the establishment of the nonprofit foundation Lipid Research, Inc., which guided the *Journal* until its merger with the ASBMB, to its current and future ambitions as the leading journal for reporting advances in lipid research.

In further celebration of this special occasion, the *JLR* is sponsoring a special symposium at the ASBMB Annual Meeting and lectures at eight major established lipid-oriented conferences in 2009. The *JLR* lectures are:

- “Advances in Lipid Metabolism – A Golden 50th Anniversary Celebration for the *Journal of Lipid Research*” Special Symposium at the ASBMB Annual Meeting/ Experimental Biology – New Orleans, LA, April 19, 2009  
*Michael S. Brown, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: Cholesterol feedback: a tale of two membrane proteins and two sterol sensors (Part I)*  
*Joseph L. Goldstein, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: Cholesterol feedback: a tale of two membrane proteins and two sterol sensors (Part II)*

*Jeffrey I. Gordon, Washington University: The human microbiome project: exploring the microbial side of ourselves*

*Nobuyo Maeda, University of North Carolina: Genetic variations in atherosclerosis: “humans to mice” and “mice to humans”*

- Deuel Lipid Conference – Borrego Springs, CA, March 5, 2009

*Benjamin F. Cravatt III, Scripps Research Institute: Metabolite profiling to identify new lipid metabolizing enzymes*

- Complex Lipids in Biology Keystone Symposium – Olympic Valley, CA, April 22, 2009

*Takao Shimizu, University of Tokyo: Membrane diversity and asymmetry by phospholipase A2 and lysophospholipid acyltransferases*

- Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology – Washington, DC, April 30, 2009

*Jay D. Horton, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center: PCSK9: a convertase that coordinates LDL catabolism*

- Atherosclerosis Gordon Conference – Tilton, NH, June 25, 2009

*Stanley L. Hazen, Cleveland Clinic: Metabolomics studies implicate choline metabolism in cardiovascular disease pathogenesis*

- Molecular and Cellular Biology of Lipids Gordon Conference – Waterville Valley, NH, July 21, 2009

*Karen Reue, University of California, Los Angeles: Lipins: multifunctional lipid phosphatases*

- Protein Lipidation, Signaling and Membrane Domains FASEB Conference – Saxtons River, VT, July 26, 2009

*Gerrit van Meer, University of Utrecht: How cells use lipid physics and chemistry to orchestrate membrane dynamics*

- Kern Aspen Lipid Conference – Aspen, CO, August 25, 2008

*Christopher K. Glass, University of California, San Diego: Rubor, calor, dolor et NCoR; nuclear receptor repression mechanisms that regulate inflammation*

- 11th International Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation, and Related Diseases Conference – Cancun, Mexico, October 25, 2009

*Joseph L. Witztum, University of California, San Diego: Bioactive oxidized lipids are a major target of innate immunity: implications for health and disease*

## REFERENCE

1. Dennis, E. A. 2009. Founding, early history, and transformation of the *Journal of Lipid Research* to an ASBMB journal. *J. Lipid Res.* S3–S8.

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