

# Preface I

RICHARD McINTOSH  
for the Editorial Board of  
*The Journal of Cell Biology*

A few years ago, the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Cell Biology* recognized that the Journal's upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary was an occasion to be celebrated with appropriate retrospection. We also realized, however, that because the membership of the board is continuously evolving, we were not the people with the perspective to produce an interesting and accurate historical account of either the Journal or the field. A committee consisting of Richard McIntosh, Thomas Pollard, and David Sabatini was formed to define more clearly what should be done. We proposed, and the Editorial Board approved, that three senior scientists who had been important in the formation and early evolution of the Journal should serve as editors for a publication that would cover the recent 25 years of each of the major fields of cell biology in which the Journal had made a contribution. The hope was for a review in the sense that current knowledge would be placed in the context of recent developments. We believed such an approach would be useful both as an account of how our various fields developed and as a teaching tool: students, we thought, should be exposed more to the histories of their chosen specialties. Finally, we were confident that this account would be a major contribution because of the material it covered and because of the people who would do the writing and editing. We hope you will agree that this has been accomplished.