Welcome to The New Anatomist

Anatomy is currently undergoing another period of renaissance and rejuvenation after a period when anatomists were in serious danger of belonging to an endangered species. It is fascinating to take a broad look at the waxing and waning of disciplines and to try to determine why they periodically undergo involution and then often suddenly burst into bloom (or occasionally disappear). The broad field of anatomy has certainly seen its share of such cycles, and several times the field has rebounded shortly after it has been declared moribund. The past few years have seen such a resurgence, and the mood of pessimism and despair that characterized the early 1990s has rapidly given way to discussions about how best to capitalize on the new-found momentum of the field.

Most important in any turnaround is a change in outlook. Strongly contributing to the most recent nadir of anatomy was a focus that in many anatomy departments, and in the AAA itself, was often turned inward and concentrated on preserving the status quo rather than reaching out to grasp new opportunities. Recent years have seen a significant change in outlook among many anatomists. In domains as diverse as curricular reform, public policy, and styles of conducting research, successful individuals and departments have embraced the new—sometimes even at the expense of letting go of the old than might have been desirable. Those who have not done so are often struggling for survival.

The New Anatomist is a product of this most recent resurgence of anatomy. It is intended to serve as a mirror reflecting new developments in the field and a forum for the discussion of important issues. Its content and format are broad. Although formally bundled with The Anatomical Record, The New Anatomist is intended to serve a different purpose. In addition to providing timely reviews and tutorials on important scientific topics, The New Anatomist will stress the interconnectedness of anatomy with other scientific disciplines, curricular evolution, and the domain of public policy. The AAA is proud to introduce this publication as another voice of the new anatomy. We look forward to your comments and contributions.

Bruce M. Carlson
President, AAA
Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology
University of Michigan Medical School
4643 Medical Science II, 0616
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0616
E-mail: brcarl@umich.edu

Roger R. Markwald
Editor-in-Chief
The Anatomical Record
Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy
School of Medicine
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC 29208.
E-mail: markwald@musc.edu

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