This journal is entering a new era. David L. Dunner, M.D., who has been superb as Comprehensive Psychiatry’s editor-in-chief for the past seventeen years, is retiring to the role of editor emeritus. He has continued and built upon Comprehensive Psychiatry’s tradition as the premier journal focusing on psychopathology, a tradition that evolved under the previous editors, Fritz Freyhan and Ralph (Tony) O’Connell. Dr. Freyhan edited the first issue of Comprehensive Psychiatry in February 1960 and steered the journal for more than twenty years. Dr. O’Connell edited the journal from 1984 until 1997. Dr. Dunner has been in charge since. Comprehensive Psychiatry began as the journal of the American Psychopathological Association, with which it remained affiliated until this past year.

Comprehensive Psychiatry has always focused on psychopathology. For decades it came out six times a year, publishing about 100 articles annually. In recent years, Dr. Dunner expanded its scale. The number of submissions and articles published has grown: we now project 550 submissions that will yield more than 200 articles to fill eight published paper issues this year. David also ushered the journal into the twenty-first century: Comprehensive Psychiatry is increasingly an online, electronic publication, read by more than a quarter of a million viewers in each of the past couple of years. Its authors, reviewers, and readership span the world.

Several transitions are now occurring. Dr. Dunner’s retirement coincides with the mutual decision of the American Psychopathological Association and Elsevier Press to part ways. Comprehensive Psychiatry at one time published APPA presidential addresses and more recently published research abstracts from the APPA annual meeting, but its relationship to the organization was always loose. The journal’s editorial board has derived largely from the APPA, but APPA members did not necessarily (or even usually) subscribe. As an independent publication, Comprehensive Psychiatry will remain focused on psychopathology and continue to invite submissions from both APPA members and non-members.

This exciting psychiatric age teaches us ever more about symptoms and syndromes. Psychopathology increasingly encompasses genetic and epigenetic factors, neuroimaging, neuroimmunology, and other domains in addition to more traditional (albeit increasingly sophisticated) observational, psychosocial, neurotransmitter, neuroendocrine, and other areas. Both the DSM-5 and the NIMH Research Domain Criteria are redefining how we look at psychopathology. One challenge for Comprehensive Psychiatry is to continue to absorb these data from disparate directions, to ensure that all emerging psychopathological avenues lead to its Rome. To underscore this goal, beginning with this issue we are adding the subtitle: “The Journal of Psychopathology.”

David Dunner’s are large shoes to try to fill. I want to formally thank him for his generous mentorship during my years on the editorial board and more recently as associate editor. With his continuing help as editor emeritus, with the help of an active editorial board and our powerful legions of reviewers, and with the support of Elsevier Press, I hope to help Comprehensive Psychiatry to develop further as a research source for understanding what goes awry in our nervous systems, and what we can do about it.

John C. Markowitz