

Serving AAPS Members and the Pharmaceutical Science and Technology Community

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AAPS PharmSciTech was launched in 2000 to disseminate scientific and technical information on drug product design, development, evaluation, and processing worldwide. Since then, the journal has gradually taken advantage of web publishing, including the publication of articles with multimedia features such as 3-D graphics, video, interactive figures and databases, and sound. These technological, informational advances have been evolving over time and will eventually come to fruition, to be used routinely by the scientific community.

Over the past five years, *AAPS PharmSciTech* has focused on the basic and applied research of pharmaceutical dosage forms, both traditional and novel, including the emerging area of biopharmaceuticals. The first three volumes of *AAPS PharmSciTech* published an average of 35 articles per year before doubling to 70 in 2003. The goal was to publish 100 articles in 2005. This goal might have been achieved with volume 5 in 2004, had we not encountered some serious production problems which I described in my editorial for volume 6, issue 1. In the end, 72 articles were published in 2004, comparable to the number published the previous year.

AAPS PharmSciTech has experienced a substantial increase in the number of manuscripts submitted worldwide. The increased in-house workload prompted AAPS in mid-2004 to hire additional staff as well as outsource some of the production tasks associated with electronic publishing. Unfortunately, the initial outsourcing was problematic, resulting in a serious backlog of "accepted" manuscripts in the copyedit and galley phases. Hence, ~20 manuscripts which could have been published in 2004 were carried over to the current year and published in volume 5, issue 1. These problems have caused, in many cases, more than a six-month delay in publishing the manuscripts after acceptance. The good news is we expect to overcome the backlog of accepted manuscripts by the end of issue 3, hopefully by November 1, before the Annual Meeting. Forty-four manuscripts were published in issues 1 and 2, and, as I write this editorial, 42 accepted manuscripts are scheduled for issues 3 and 4. We anticipate that an additional 17 accepted manuscripts will materialize from the 64 manuscripts currently in the revision process. If so, our goal of 100 manuscripts in 2005 will be realized.

The production problems occurred simultaneously with the increase in submitted manuscripts as well as the acceptance of *AAPS PharmSciTech* for indexing in the Institute for Scientific Information's *Science CitationIndex Database*.

An impact factor is expected to be assigned at the end of 2005, and hopefully it will be buoyed by the inclusion of review articles in volume 6, a theme issue on process analytical technologies and a tutorial. The journal has also published notices and summaries of international conferences that focus on pharmaceutical technology. Lastly, AAPS Focus Groups have been invited to submit newsworthy items for inclusion in *AAPS PharmSciTech*.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chief Editor