

Editorial

Acta Crystallographica Section D is devoted to biological crystallography and welcomes all articles that can help with an understanding of biological systems. These articles include protein and nucleic acid crystal structure determinations and also studies of their complexes with other molecules, large or small. *Section D* of *Acta Crystallographica* also periodically publishes issues devoted to meetings of crystallographic interest. These special issues provide a variety of articles on a focused subject. In 1993, the subject of the first issue was 'Direct Methods of Phasing in Macromolecular Crystallography', the proceedings of a meeting in April 1992. This year an issue will be devoted to the growth of crystals, from papers given at a conference on 'Crystal Growth of Macromolecules' held in San Diego in August 1993. Next year the subject will be 'Structure-Based Drug Design', the proceedings of a meeting at Panama City Beach, Florida, April 1994.

The overall aim of this journal is to provide a wide variety of papers in the disciplines pertaining to biological crystallography. We also aim to continue high-quality refereeing and editing of articles so that the caliber that the other IUCr journals pride themselves in will

be maintained. The assistance of the crystallographic community with these aims is much appreciated. As Editor I thank those who spend time and effort on the refereeing process with no reward except for the knowledge that the article is improved. I also thank Co-editors and Members of the Advisory Board for their generous help. It is my hope that the flow of submitted articles will continue and that authors with questions or problems will contact me. We have tried to make the review process as speedy as possible, and we will continue to explore means of expediting the process.

When P. P. Ewald founded *Acta Crystallographica* in 1948, he expressed the hope that '*Acta* will focus international discussion on problems of crystallography'. The establishment of a separate section of *Acta Crystallographica* devoted to the study of biological structures provides such an international forum and is clearly both an appropriate and a necessary means of furthering this goal.

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