

## Editorial

As of January 1, 1996, I have assumed the editor-in-chief position of the well-established journal, *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology*. My interest in taking on this responsibility stems from a belief that the broad areas represented by the journal can provide a unique forum for papers not covered by any other periodical.

After extensive consultation with the Editorial Advisory Board, we will shortly be refocusing the journal to place greater emphasis on the word "Applied" in the title. There are a wide variety of biotechnology, biochemistry, and bioengineering journals; however, none of these journals have as their main focus the application of biochemistry or biotechnology. I believe that, by publishing articles with this focus, we will provide a forum for work from the best scientific and engineering laboratories who take their scientific discoveries and technologies beyond the basic proof-of-principle or proof-of-design stage and into the realm of application. Therefore, effective immediately, the following criteria will be applied to the review and publication of all papers appearing in *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology*:

*Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* is a journal devoted to publishing the highest quality innovative papers in the fields of biochemistry and biotechnology. Though the typical focus of the journal is to report applications of novel scientific and technological breakthroughs, quality papers on technological subjects that are still in the proof-of-concept stage will also be considered. In addition, *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* will provide a forum for practical concepts of biotechnology utilization, including controls, statistical data analysis, problem descriptions unique to a particular application, and bioprocess economic analyses. In this regard, case studies are of particular interest.

With this new focus, we hope to attract new contributors from academia, industrial, and government laboratories.

The journal will publish papers in all areas of biochemistry and biotechnology, including:

- Diagnostics
- Environmental biotechnology (e.g., renewable resources, biodegradation, and bioremediation)
- Applied genetics
- Enzymology
- Bioconversion
- Economics
- Case studies

- Bioreactors
- Biomonitoring
- Sensors and biosensors (e.g., clinical, environmental, food, and bioprocessing)
- Food biotechnology
- Biocatalytic materials
- Molecular biology
- Combinatorial chemistry and biology
- High throughput screening
- Robotics in biotechnology
- Bioanalytical techniques and applications

The above list includes both traditional and contemporary topics. Thus the scope of the journal will be broad, but directed toward the applied. Papers that report new discoveries or techniques supporting a future application, or papers that combine theory with data are each within the purview of *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology*. The new focus will become effective immediately. Papers published under the new criteria and coordinated through my office will begin to be published with the July issue. Until then, Howard Weetall's name will continue to appear on the masthead page.

Finally, the editorial board and I are committed to hastening the publication process. With cooperation from the publisher, we intend to compress the time frame for publication to less than six months from submission to publication. I look forward to receiving your comments, suggestions, and of course your best and most urgent contributions.

*David R. Walt*