

Editorial

As of January 1, 1996, the executive editor's responsibilities for *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* belong to Professor David Walt. I have relinquished my leadership of the journal in the belief that the journal readers, and the researchers who submit their manuscripts for publication, will benefit from this change.

I initiated *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* some 20 years ago, when it was known as the *Journal of Solid-Phase Chemistry*. My coeditors were Meir Wilchek, at the Weizmann Institute of Science; Klaus Mosbach, at the University of Lund, Sweden; and Pedro Cuatrecasas, at the Wellcome Research Laboratories of Burroughs Wellcome Co., Research Triangle, NC. In 1976, the area of solid-phase biochemistry was one of the most exciting areas of applied technology. Literally hundreds of papers were published that year in the areas of immobilized enzymes, antigens, antibodies, peptide synthesis, sequencing, and many other studies of immobilized biologically active materials. We believed that there was a need for a journal to bring together researchers working in biochemistry and engineering, as the application and eventual scale-up of immobilized biochemical processes was of an interdisciplinary nature.

The original editorial board represented researchers from all technical areas that impinged on immobilized biochemical processes. Some of the original members included: B. Merrifield, I. Chibata, E. Katzir-Kalchalski, G. Manecke, J. Porath, and D. Wang. These individuals were all leaders in their specific areas of expertise.

By 1980, it became obvious that the scope of this journal needed broadening. Humana Press and the senior editorial staff of the journal agreed to expand the scope and to rename the journal. The new journal, renamed *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology*, first appeared in 1981, with an expanded scope and a revised editorial board. Since that time, the journal has grown from a quarterly to a monthly publication. The number of manuscript submissions has grown from less than 100 in 1981 to several hundred in 1995. Today, the journal has an international reputation and an international flavor. Manuscripts are submitted from all over the world, including the former Soviet Union, and Mainland China. It is indeed an international journal.

I am proud of the accomplishments that the editors and I (as executive editor) have made over the years. However, I strongly

believe that, if *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* is to continue to grow and expand, it is necessary to turn over the reins to someone younger and more energetic. I am convinced that the time and energy necessary can be provided by the new executive editor, Professor David Walt. Moreover, I am confident that he will continue to improve the quality of the journal and its reputation in the scientific community, and so I look forward to the next 20 years of *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology* with great anticipation.

Howard H. Weetall

Executive Editor, Emeritus