

## EDITORIAL

Biomarkers is now halfway through its fifth volume. Not only is copy flow buoyant but we are receiving increasingly good quality papers, some from the same authors. Clearly the journal has become the primary choice for many researchers in the field. As a result of these quality submissions, the impact factor has risen to 1.55 (1998 Science Citation Index), ranking it 17 out of 71 journals in the toxicology category. The journal is also included in the Biotechnology and Applied Microbiology category where it is ranked 36 out of 123. It is worth noting that this latter list includes some very well established and prestigious journals, such as *Nature Biotechnology* and *Genome*. As I noted in the last editorial we have a wide geographical spread of contributors to the journal and this has continued.

Readers will be interested to hear that an arrangement has now been made with the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (ISSX), entitling members to a preferential subscription rate. Another change is that the full text of the journal is available online to institutional subscribers at no additional charge. This provides a fully searchable, browsable resource with active linking via the references.

A contents alert service is available free of charge, providing advance notification of issues and access to abstracts from the online contents pages. In addition, in light of the requirement for faster publication, a preprint initiative, 'preview', is being developed to accelerate papers of significant advancement and importance in the field. Please visit the journal's web site at <http://www.tandf.co.uk> for further information on these developments. Of course, I hope that you will urge your colleagues and your institutional library to subscribe.

In forthcoming issues there will be reviews on the use of proteomics to identify potential biomarkers, biomarkers in *in vitro* toxicology and the use of NMR to identify novel biomarkers.

Finally I would like to thank all of those who have helped with the journal, in particular those who have refereed manuscripts over the past 18 months. I know how much effort this requires. I am therefore grateful to the following for this service:

D Phillips

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