

EDITORIAL

Biomarkers has now been in existence for over six years and has become a mature vehicle for the dissemination of research on biomarkers of exposure, response and susceptibility. Subscriptions have increased, albeit slowly, but use of the online version to look at abstracts and to download individual articles has shown considerable growth. Copy flow is reasonably stable and the quality of articles is good. Furthermore, authors of these articles are derived from many different countries in the world, reflecting international awareness of the journal. However, nothing stands still in the world of science and it has become increasingly clear that biomarkers is an expanding field with biomarkers of disease for example becoming more prominent. This was highlighted by a recent NATO workshop on Biomarkers of Disease in Breath. Therefore, it has been decided that Biomarkers of Disease will be added as a fourth section of the journal, with Surrogate Biomarkers of Efficacy to be added later. This change has been endorsed by the Editorial Board and there will be a necessary adjustment to the composition of the Board. This will start from the first issue of volume seven. We also anticipate having a number of reviews on biomarkers of disease. Another new development will be the highlighting of original papers and reviews of particular interest on the Taylor and Francis web site.

At a recent conference (Biomarkers of Environmental Contamination, in Porto), the idea of a society dedicated to Biomarkers was raised. It was felt that a society might allow exchange of information between disciplines, help move the science forward and perhaps facilitate the organisation of conferences. The Editorial Board have already been asked for their opinion but I agreed to ask the readership of the journal for their views. If you have a view about this please email me (john.timbrell@kcl.ac.uk).

I would like to thank all of the members of the Editorial Board for their input and help reviewing over the past six years, especially those retiring at the end of the year.

Finally, I should like to acknowledge all of the outside referees, listed below, who have reviewed manuscripts over the past two years. Without their help we would not be able to maintain the essential scientific tradition of peer-review which is fundamental to the high standards of the journal.

I look forward to another six years of growth and development.

John Timbrell
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