

Editorial

Since its foundation in 1978 by Drs Carter, Mathe and McElwain, *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology* has become established as a specialist journal for those involved in preclinical and clinical work aimed at improving the drug treatment of cancer. During the intervening 16 years the practice and science of cancer pharmacology have changed substantially and the changes introduced in this issue to the style of *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology* are in part a reflection of these changes. Thus the new instructions to authors included in this issue encompass new guidelines on the way experimentation involving laboratory animals and the validation of analytical methods should be reported. For animal experimentation, the guidelines reflect the view of the journal that the use of laboratory animals should be kept to an absolute minimum and that the experiments that are performed should maintain the highest possible standards of animal care. In the case of analytical methods, evidence of accuracy, precision and reproducibility must be provided for all assays used.

A further change to the format of *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology* is the introduction of a Clinical Trial Reports section. This section is intended as a repository for clinical results which are of either a negative or preliminary nature, but nonetheless warrant publication. Finally, in line with many journals, the format of abstracts for articles published in *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology* has been altered to that of a structured layout. The editors of *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology* hope that these changes will meet the approval of both authors and readers.

Whilst writing it is appropriate to bring to the attention of readers the recent resignation of Professor Hilary Calvert as Senior Editor of *Cancer Chemotherapy*. Taking over from Professor Tim McElwain, Hilary Calvert has worked enthusiastically since 1989 to maintain the quality and popularity of the journal. The buoyancy of the publication now in our hands is largely a legacy of the efforts of former editors and we hope that we will maintain the standards set by them. Coincident with the resignation of Hilary Calvert, and the editorial changes introduced in this issue, the editors and publishers felt that it was appropriate to review the composition of the editorial board of *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology*. As a result of this review, certain long-standing members of the board have stood down and we are particularly grateful to them for their hard work on behalf of the journal which in some cases has spanned more than a decade. In future, board members will be asked to serve for only four years in the first instance to avoid unfairly burdening individual scientists.

At a time of rapid change we hope that cancer pharmacologists will continue to use *Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology* as a vehicle for the dissemination of their results. Regardless of the structure or mechanism of action of a drug the rules of pharmacology still apply and without careful attention to these it may not be possible to exploit the full therapeutic potential of the agent. By facilitating rapid publication and maintaining standards we hope that this journal will continue to fulfil a useful role.

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