



Foreword

This journal was conceived over 40 years ago in response to a growing dissatisfaction by many researchers in the carbohydrate field with the available outlets for publication of their work. Although the major society journals provided avenues for reports on synthetic organic chemistry involving sugars, and various biochemical journals featured work on carbohydrate enzymology, the available possibilities for publishing work on structure determination of polysaccharides and glycoconjugates, and for analytical, technological, and physicochemical aspects, were dispersed over a wide range of other periodicals. A desire to create a journal devoted broadly to all aspects of carbohydrate science gained momentum among researchers in the field, and motivated Dr. Marc Atkins of the Elsevier Company in 1963 to discuss with Professors Leslie Hough and Allan Foster in England the idea of founding such a multidisciplinary periodical.

It was clear at the outset that such a journal had to be international in scope and provide an integrated structure that would be welcomed by investigators working in all areas of carbohydrate science. A five-person Anglo–American team of editors was set up, with Foster and his colleague John Webber based at the University of Birmingham, Derek Horton at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Roger Jeanloz at the Harvard Medical School, and R. Stuart Tipson of the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC. Each editor operated independently, but there was coordination via circulation of articles at the proof stage. Supporting the editor group was an Advisory Board of eight senior researchers, along with an Editorial Board comprising 38 members from 21 different countries; these individuals provided a core of experts who contributed much valuable input in reviewing manuscripts. Marc Atkins and the Elsevier Publishing Company based in Amsterdam, a company with a long tradition in publishing, assured high quality production and marketing for the journal.

The initial manuscripts were submitted toward the end of 1964. The first issue of the journal appeared later in 1965, and its content reflects the multidisciplinary objective: the topics of the 12 articles ranged between NMR spectroscopy, acetal stereochemistry, osazones,

boric acid complexes, sialic acid assay, glycosaminoglycan structure, starch biosynthesis, plant gum structure, nucleoside synthesis, and the structure of a novel sugar. This broad scope has been sustained over the ensuing four decades and some 10,000 published articles, as is still apparent in any current issue of *Carbohydrate Research*.

The founding team of five coeditors remained unchanged for 20 years, although the two supporting boards were merged in 1969 into a single Editorial Advisory Board whose membership was revised periodically to introduce newer experts in the field and accept the retirement of others. The editorial policy allowed flexibility in the presentation of results according to the nature of the work, but enforced strict criteria for such items as adequate characterization of new compounds, and set requirements for clear and concise language. With most of the articles written in English, but addressed to an international audience where the majority of readers did not have English as their mother tongue, the editors insisted on simple direct sentences in grammatically correct English and the avoidance of wordiness or obscure jargon. To this end, a considerable amount of condensation and correction was carried out by the editors, a service that was well appreciated by the end users, the readers, although not always by certain authors, some of whom were given to protest about their manuscripts being ‘Fosterized’ or ‘Tipsonized.’

For a number of years the journal published articles in the French or German languages, but eventually the pursuit of favorable citation indexes motivated most authors to submit their papers in English. A consistent policy has remained in the use of standardized terminology and nomenclature to assure comprehensibility between a range of formal disciplines, and the provision of full experimental detail that would allow another investigator to repeat the work.

The first change in the structure of the editor group took place in 1984 when Tipson retired from active editing and Laurens Anderson took his place, a position he held for a further 10 years, and five years later David Baker was appointed. The Editorial Advisory Board had over the years undergone periodic changes, but a

policy of fixed-term appointments was later introduced to allow younger and rising new investigators to take a greater share in the development of the journal. The year 1991 saw the appointment of Jacques Defaye as an editor, the first person on the editor group not to have English as his mother language, but at a time when Elsevier was providing in-house assistance with language editing of accepted manuscripts. With English now the accepted *lingua franca* of science, the avoidance of a substandard 'Euro-speak' in the final published articles remains a challenge.

In addition to the regular flow of submitted articles, *Carbohydrate Research* has from time to time featured special collections of invited papers. In the earlier years these have taken the form of Honor Issues or Memorial Issues dedicated to individuals of distinguished stature in the field, but these have been largely supplanted by Thematic Issues that bring together a group of significant papers on a coordinated theme. Particularly noteworthy is the 1990 celebratory issue marking the 200th volume of the journal, where Leslie Hough and Anthony Richardson helped to bring together the contributions from 40 different research groups. Their introduction to that issue provides an interesting overview of the factors leading to the creation of the journal, noting that 'the 1962 International Symposium [on carbohydrate chemistry] at the University of Birmingham was most probably the springboard for the launch of *Carbohydrate Research*, which was made all the more necessary by the reluctance of certain learned societies to encourage the publication of carbohydrate papers in their mainstream journals.' Leslie Hough had been the first person to discuss with Marc Atkins the potential for a specialized journal on carbohydrates, and he published with coauthor C. Cone the first paper that appeared in Volume 1 of the journal.

Marc Atkins, who had been a fixture as the publisher's representative since the outset, and who coordinated the regular policy meetings of the editor group, turned over his duties to Andrew (Brodie) Dempster and Swan Go in 1990. With the acquisition of Pergamon by Elsevier some years later, the production operation of the journal was moved from Amsterdam to Oxford, where it continues to function within the framework of the large family of organic chemistry and biochemistry titles, many originally developed under the Pergamon imprint.

Major changes took place in 1992 with the retirement of two of the founding editors, Foster and Jeanloz, concurrent with the appointment of Grant Buchanan and Anthony Serianni, each of whom was to serve for four more years. Two years later Elizabeth Hounsell joined the group at the time of Anderson's retirement, followed

in 1995 by Hans Kamerling, who served for three years, while Webber closed his office in 1996.

Since 1998 the editorial team of Baker, Defaye, Horton, and Hounsell has sustained the journal, with the advent in 2004 of Todd Lowary to the group, during which time the traditional procedures of manuscript submission and handling have given way largely to electronic processing. This has allowed major improvements in the speed with which accepted articles can be published, although the ease with which a manuscript can be submitted has placed significant additional burdens on reviewers and editors faced with a large volume of poorly prepared manuscripts of sometimes marginal quality. The traditional standards for characterization of compounds are still maintained, but reflect new developments in NMR spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, X-ray crystallography and other instrumental techniques that are commonly used in today's laboratories. These standards as set forth in the 2006 'Guide to Authors' are in line with criteria established by the world's premier chemical societies.

The subscriber base of the journal showed a healthy upward trend from the outset, although it never reached the levels of the principal society journals. During the 1990s, there was a steady decline in print journal subscribers, a trend dramatically reversed with the advent of online access through ScienceDirect. An additional benefit of this online access was the archiving of all past issues, permitting computerized retrieval of the full text version of every article published in *Carbohydrate Research* since the first issue.

After more than four decades, from the inception of *Carbohydrate Research*, and after handling close to three thousand manuscripts, this writer now terminates his duties as a receiving editor of the journal as of the end of 2005, but plans to continue in an advisory capacity as Honorary Editor. Over the years it has been a significant challenge to sustain an active research program and teaching responsibilities while also attending on a daily basis to the flow of manuscripts, reviews, and proofs. However, it has brought many rewards: I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to develop close relations with many authors and the numerous colleagues around the world who have given their time in providing expert opinions on submitted manuscripts. It has been a privilege to serve the carbohydrate community over all these years and to share first-hand in the many exciting developments that continue to emerge in our field. My editor colleagues and the publishers will assuredly continue to build on the sound basis that the journal has established, and I wish them well in the future.

Derek Horton