

Editorial

This issue of *Glycoconjugate Journal* is the start of a new stage in the journal's development. The *Glycoconjugate Journal* was launched after the organizers of the 7th International Symposium on Glycoconjugates, which was held in Lund-Ronneby, Sweden in July 1983, decided that the time was ripe to initiate a specialist journal for the glycoconjugate community.

The idea was put to about 100 of the leading scientists in the field and the overwhelmingly positive response encouraged our little group in Lund to dive head first into the world of scientific publishing. Seven years later, the project has grown beyond the limits of our spare time capacity. The future development of *Glycoconjugate Journal* has, therefore, been placed in the capable hands of Chapman & Hall, the well-established international publishing house.

Dr Kenneth Lloyd, of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York will continue as Associate Editor with responsibility for the American continent and Professor Toshiaki Osawa of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Tokyo, had kindly agreed to be the Associate Editor for Japan and Australasia. Professor Raymond Dwek of the University of Oxford, UK is welcomed as Special Advisory Editor, with responsibility for venting attitudes, opinions, controversies, arguments, quarrels, lawsuits or just plain information concerning glycoconjugates and glycobiochemists.

We have invited a smaller Editorial Board to replace the previous board of 70 eminent scientists. This more manageable number is expected to result in a more effective interaction between the Editors, Editorial Board and Publisher. The composition of the new Editorial Board reflects the geographical diversity of glycoconjugate research as well as attempting to cover the many sub-disciplines.

The original members of the Editorial Board have played a significant role in the establishment of *Glycoconjugate Journal* through their moral support, advice and practical help in reviewing manuscripts. This help is gratefully acknowledged and highly appreciated. The value of such peer review is frequently underestimated, but it must be realized that a large amount of highly qualified time is spent annually, free of charge, to maintain the high quality of published scientific research. Although not always appreciated by authors, this selfless offering of valuable time and expertise is of great benefit to the research community.

Growing out of the traditional "heavy" technologies of the cellulose and sugar industries, glycoconjugate research

has penetrated most areas of the life science. Carbohydrates are involved in the recognition of host cells by viruses and bacteria. The frequent presence of carbohydrates (often referred to as an "unnecessary appendage and complication") on biologically active (protein) molecules is a source of fascination to the researcher and frustration to the biotechnologist. The often severe clinical manifestations of defective carbohydrate metabolism give us a poignant reminder of the delicate balance necessary for normal life. Perhaps the most widespread medical implication of glycoconjugate diversity is exemplified by the blood transfusion centres all over the world, that are a direct development from the practical need to differentiate between the inborn variations in carbohydrate metabolism in Man.

The philosophy of the International Glycoconjugate Symposia has always been to bring together specialists in various disciplines, such as chemical synthesis, molecular conformation, structural analysis, enzymology, cell metabolism and cellular function, in order to exchange ideas and results and to stimulate the development of glycoconjugate knowledge in such diverse areas as biochemistry, biotechnology, chemistry, immunology, microbiology, pathology, physiology and serology. This is also the philosophy of *Glycoconjugate Journal*, which is the official journal of the International Glycoconjugate Organization.

In order to fulfil our goals we need *your* participation.

- You are reading this journal, therefore you are interested in glycoconjugates.
- Make that interest active rather than passive by subjecting your research papers to the expert scrutiny of our referees.
- See your work published in *Glycoconjugate Journal* where it will be evaluated and acknowledged by fellow glycobiochemists.
- Make your scientific views known by writing to Raymond Dwek or any of the Editors or Editorial Board.
- Tell us, your colleagues, and the International Glycoconjugate Organization how you see or would like to see the glycoconjugate future.

I look forward to a stimulating collaboration!

ALAN CHESTER
Chief Editor