



Editorial Reflections on the 250th Volume of *IJP*

1. From the USA

As the 250th volume of the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* goes to press, it gives one an opportunity to reflect on the first issue of the Journal. In 1978, Issue 1 of Volume 1 appeared. That year there was one volume spread out over the full year. In 2002, there are 19 volumes of the Journal with publication every two to three weeks. Over the quarter century of publication, the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* has grown and developed as a major outlet for scientific information in the broad field of pharmaceutics. The early articulated goal of the Journal was to provide a “means of bringing together research and study . . . in areas of pharmaceutical, physical, chemical and clinical sciences, in so far as they relate to the dosage form, its design, development and use”. From its first issue consisting of 6 articles emphasizing pharmacokinetics and physical pharmacy, the journal maintains its strong emphasis on physical pharmacy and drug delivery while including recent developments in new areas of research including molecular biology and biotechnology as they relate to pharmaceutics and drug delivery. We acknowledge with appreciation the efforts of the first editors-in-chief, Pat D’Arcy and Eli Shefter, as well as the succeeding editors and the outstanding reviewers and authors who have helped make the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* a success.

J. Howard Rytting
Editor-in-Chief (The Americas and Australia)

2. From Japan

It is really pleasing that the 250th volume of *International Journal of Pharmaceutics* has arrived. As the Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor for Japan and Far East we would like to emphasize that the journal has advanced the quality of pharmaceutical research in this region remarkably and has allowed Japanese scientists to internationalize their work. In the past, before one of us (Nagai) was appointed the Editor-in-Chief in 1989, Japanese pharmaceutical researchers submitted papers in English mainly to the *Chemical and Pharmaceutical Bulletin* which was published by the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, but which had a low circulation outside Japan, thus creating few responses to the papers it contained.

At present, we are most pleased that the statistics for Japan concerning submissions and publication in *IJP* are almost comparable to those of USA and Europe. Pharmaceutical science in Japan has developed along the lines of Western models, and matches these now. This is the time for us not only to receive benefits from the wider community of scientists but to contribute enthusiastically to pharmaceutical sciences throughout the world. *IJP* serves a useful means to accomplish this goal.

T. Nagai
Editor-in-Chief (Japan and Far East)
T. Sonobe
Associate Editor (Japan and Far East)

3. From Europe

I have in front of me a copy of one of the earlier issues of “*IJP*” as it has become fondly known. Volume 2, number 3/4, dated May 1979, contains one review, eight full papers and a rapid communication. Contrast this with a recent issue, albeit a special issue (Volume 242) published on 21st August 2002 containing over 40 contributions in 417 pages. The growth of the journal has been remarkable. Its focus on pharmaceuticals in its broadest sense makes it, I believe, of the highest value to those working in the discipline, whether as industrial scientists, academics involved in teaching and research, postgraduates and postdoctoral researchers. Journals with broader remits have higher calculated impact factors, but have lesser impacts on the individual reader. For years I have subscribed both to *Nature* and to *Science* and sometimes several issues go past without me finding any paper of interest to me. Several delude themselves over impact factors and publish in journals with a high and highly publicised impact factor but with what I call a low *personal impact factor*. The paper can get buried, in *Nature* literally amongst the rivetting accounts of dinosaur eggs and another genome map. And have you ever noticed that papers with a pharmaceutical bent that do get published in such journals are not always the best? I would like to see the journal retain its core science, but also to attract those who might find their natural home is elsewhere. This is one reason that I have encouraged special themed issues, not as conference proceedings but as focuses for a broader range of topics. Readers who have ideas for such issues are welcome to contact me or any of the other Editors-in-Chief. So as long as authors submit their work in such numbers to *IJP* then as an Editor I will continue to be happy. Editors are conscious that they rely on referees who, unsung, ensure that high stan-

dards are maintained. Sometimes referees disagree, and this is where editorial board members and fellow editors are vital. We all should be grateful to the two founding editors Pat D’Arcy and Eli Shefter. Pat sadly died a year ago while attending a meeting at the British Pharmaceutical Conference, interested in science until the end. He was a great enthusiast for all things pharmaceutical and would I think be proud of the vigour of the Journal today, not only in the Americas and Europe but also in Japan and the rest of the world.

Alexander T. Florence
(Editor-in-Chief, Europe, Africa and the Near East)

The roots of *IJP* were established by Professor Pat D’Arcy. Pat was forever enthusiastic and was a great source of encouragement to young authors. I had the privilege of being at a dinner with Pat the night before he passed away, in September 2001 and he had retained all of his positive qualities.

IJP currently receives papers from all over the world and is the most cited pharmaceuticals journal. Many of the best cited papers published in *IJP* in recent years are in the field of pharmaceutical materials science, a discipline that has emerged from physical pharmaceuticals and technology, describing the characterisation and significance of physico-chemical properties of materials. Highly cited papers in this area include those describing novel methods to study materials properties, such as near infrared, modulated DSC and micro thermal analysis. In this field, and in many others, *IJP* is an excellent vehicle by which to obtain high visibility for research work. This encourages the development of the science base and is good for our subject.

Graham Buckton
Editor (Europe, Africa and the Near East)