

## Editorial

---

### THE BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS SECTION

In its first 18 years of existence, the *Journal of Chromatography* grew from 1 to 14 volumes per year. The editorial policy adhered to was to accept all papers that were judged to be suitable for publication, irrespective of the total size of the journal. We considered repeatedly whether to and how to split the journal into various sections, but all our advisers were against dividing the field into techniques or various applications and they argued correctly that a new technique, reagent, etc., may always be of general interest and that most analytical problems nowadays involve more than one chromatographic technique.

However, during recent years, one area began to show fascinating possibilities: the application of chromatographic techniques in the medical field, both in diagnosis and in the control of chemotherapeutic treatment. Here it is often not one compound that is being detected or determined but rather a chromatographic profile (even of unidentified substances) which indicates a pathological condition. Outstanding examples are the presence of polyamines in the urine of cancer patients<sup>1</sup>, the tocopherol and linoleic acid concentrations in the plasma of stroke patients<sup>2</sup> and steroid profiles involving as many as 20 steroids<sup>3</sup>.

In this field (usually called "biomedical"), there is considerable justification for establishing a separate section, because the results and techniques concern the medical specialist and the laboratory scientist equally. As the former is unlikely to subscribe to or plough through the entire *Journal of Chromatography*, we decided to start a section of the journal that can be subscribed to separately by those interested in medical aspects. It will also reach all subscribers to the *Journal of Chromatography*, who will receive this section as part of their normal subscription.

The Editor-in-Chief of this new section will be Dr. Karel Macek, who has spent the last 8 years in a hospital laboratory working on just the type of problem that will fall within the scope of the new section, and who has been Associate Editor of the *Journal of Chromatography* since 1969 (Vol. 40). He has invited the following Editorial Board to help him:

- B. G. Belenkii (Leningrad, U.S.S.R.)
- L. D. Bergelson (Moscow, U.S.S.R.)
- A. A. Boulton (Saskatoon, Canada)
- C. J. W. Brooks (Glasgow, Great Britain)
- H. Ch. Curtius (Zürich, Switzerland)
- Z. Deyl (Prague, Czechoslovakia)
- J. W. Drysdale (Boston, Mass., U.S.A.)
- M. G. Horning (Houston, Texas, U.S.A.)
- E. Jellum (Oslo, Norway)
- A. Kuksis (Toronto, Canada)

H. M. Liebich (Tübingen, B.R.D.)  
P. Padieu (Dijon, France)  
N. Seiler (Frankfurt/M, B.R.D.)  
L. R. Snyder (Tarrytown, N.Y., U.S.A.)  
W. J. A. VandenHeuvel (Rahway, N.J., U.S.A.)  
J. Wagner (Leipzig, D.D.R.)

The papers can be submitted either to  
Dr. Karel Macek  
Editor, Journal of Chromatography, Biomedical Applications  
P.O. Box 681  
Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

or to the *Journal of Chromatography*. In the latter case, if it is felt that a topic would be more suitable for the biomedical section, the authors will be asked to approve the transfer of their paper.

We hope that this new independent section will help the medical profession to realise the possibilities inherent in the use of chromatographic techniques and thus justify the departure from former practice.

MICHAEL LEDERER

#### REFERENCES

- 1 D. H. Russell (Editor), *Polyamines in Normal and Neoplastic Growth*, Raven Press, New York, 1973.
- 2 S. N. Lin and E. C. Horning, *J. Chromatogr.*, 112 (1975) 465.
- 3 C. D. Pfaffenberger and E. C. Horning, *J. Chromatogr.*, 112 (1975) 581.