

Development of a Journal

The JOURNAL OF LIPID RESEARCH, like many other periodicals, is the result of growing necessity. For a number of years workers in the lipid field have felt an increasing need for better exchange of information, particularly in lipid methodology. Because of the limited space available for publication of the many new procedures of lipid analysis, it could easily be foreseen that communication would be the rate-limiting factor in lipid research.

The original proposal was to prepare a loose-leaf handbook of methodology which would be kept current by yearly supplements. It was even suggested that prior to their acceptance for inclusion in the handbook, the methods be tested by one or more laboratories.

Although in theory these ideas were good, their application did not appear practicable. It would take too long to state in detail the reasons for proceeding with the publication of a scholarly journal; however, the decision was made only after careful consideration of all other possibilities. The majority reaction has been that the advantages of this endeavor far outweigh all possible disadvantages, and it is hoped that the new journal will be viewed as a healthy sign of the growth of biochemical research in general and the upsurge of lipid investigation in particular.

The JOURNAL OF LIPID RESEARCH, a quarterly, will offer to its readers a representative selection of original work in the chemistry, biochemistry, enzymology, histochemistry, and physiology of the lipids. In addition, the editors will, at regular intervals, invite reviewers to summarize and discuss significant advances in their specialized fields. One section, "Notes on Methodology," will be devoted to the prompt publication of modifications of existing lipid methods. An-

other section, "New Methods," a comprehensive listing of new lipid methods currently published in other scientific journals, will be prepared by the editorial staff. Those concerned with the publication of the JOURNAL will depend heavily upon the advice of experienced, mature scientists, whose constructive criticisms will always be gratefully received.

The editors have made every effort to keep the control of the JOURNAL in the hands of research workers themselves. To accomplish this purpose, a nonprofit organization, Lipid Research, Incorporated, was formed by the charter members: Drs. Edward H. Ahrens, Jr., Joseph H. Bragdon, Herbert E. Carter, Jules Hirsch, Irvine Page, Henry Sebrell, and Donald B. Zilversmit. A grant from the National Heart Institute made it possible for this group to obtain the editorial and business experience of University Publishers Incorporated, another nonprofit organization, in New York City. The financial support of the JOURNAL OF LIPID RESEARCH is thus derived entirely from the Public Health Service grant and subscriptions received from individuals and institutions.

Another feature of the new journal worth mentioning is its international scope. We have been extremely fortunate in obtaining the co-operation of a most distinguished group of scientists from abroad. As corresponding editors they will keep the JOURNAL and its readers informed of the advances in lipid research outside the United States. It is hoped that a great many of the articles published in the JOURNAL will be contributed by our colleagues in other countries.

It is fully expected that the JOURNAL will be of value to investigators concerned with basic lipid research and that it will give the lipid field the recognition it deserves.

D. B. ZILVERSMIT
Editor