

A F F I L I A T I O N W I T H F A S E B

A number of significant events related to the editorial and financial structure of the *Journal of Lipid Research* have occurred within the past 18 months. In chronological order these have been the introduction of a Board of Associate Editors, the appointments of a new Editor and a new Executive Editor, and affiliation with one of the major scientific organizations in the world, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. I plan to write editorials discussing each of these events, so that our readers and contributors will understand their significance and their role in the growth of this Journal. This first article will be concerned with the most recent and the most dramatic event: affiliation with FASEB.

First, let me describe the new arrangement. At the present time the *Journal of Lipid Research* is owned by a private, nonprofit organization, Lipid Research, Inc., which is represented by the members of the Advisory Board, with Dr. E. H. Ahrens, Jr. as its president. For a period of five years, beginning in January 1971, FASEB will become the publisher of the *Journal of Lipid Research*. The Journal will continue as an independent organization, but representatives of the member societies of FASEB will join the Advisory Board in order to form a bridge to FASEB. When the five year period is up, ownership of the Journal will be transferred to FASEB, if both parties are agreeable.

A number of substantial advantages will accrue to the Journal by virtue of the new arrangement. Some of these are financial. By being included in the larger publication activities of FASEB, readers may be assured that rising costs will be kept to a minimum. Furthermore, the Journal will be in a better position, as a member of a larger publication effort, to take advantage of new printing methods as they develop, and every effort will be made to pass on to our readership any derived economies. Last, but not least, the Editor's freedom from responsibility for the fiscal operation of the Journal in the future will permit him and the Executive Editor to concentrate their efforts on editorial matters.

A full appreciation of this development requires a short historical review of the origin of the *Journal of Lipid Research*. The ground work for the creation of the Journal

required two years under the leadership of Dr. E. H. Ahrens, Jr., and its first issue appeared in the fall of 1959. Investigators in the lipid field may recall that period as one in which developments in methodology—the advent of silicic acid chromatography for separating lipid classes and of gas-liquid chromatography for separating fatty acids—were beginning to have their revolutionary impact on the quality of lipid research. It was apparent that a young, vigorous group of investigators would be eager to exploit these methods, and that they would need a journal in which they could present their findings and assist one another in the exchange of laboratory arts. The National Heart Institute was persuaded to allocate funds generously to assist in the creation of a new journal. This journal would serve two purposes: first, it would provide an outlet for a substantial increase in the number of new investigations; and second, it would serve to establish a high standard for such work. The *Journal of Lipid Research*, through the dedicated efforts of its previous editors, Doctors Zilversmit, Steinberg, and Ahrens, has satisfied these great expectations in full measure. In its eleven years of life, it has not only achieved financial independence, but it has served as a stimulus for the creation of three other journals covering the field of lipid research.

Affiliation with FASEB may be thought of as the Journal's "Coming of Age." I believe this joining of forces will enlarge the Journal's coverage of scientific areas of interest to each of the member societies, and that pathology, immunology, and pharmacology can be as well represented as biochemistry, physiology, and nutrition. A new interest in the Journal by the member societies of FASEB may be expected through the participation of their representatives on the Advisory Board. And finally, the prestige that will accrue to the Journal by reason of its new relationship with the Federation should lead to a wider distribution of the Journal, both to libraries and to personal subscribers. There is a feeling of great enthusiasm on the part of everyone concerned in this event, and I hope that our contributors and readers will share this feeling with us.

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