

## Short communications

During the almost 15 years of its existence, the *Journal of Lipid Research* has had a tradition of detailed, critical review of manuscripts. The success of this policy is evident from the quality and importance of the research that it publishes. The frequency of citation of articles published in the Journal is among the highest of all specialized periodicals. The position of the Journal is also related to its broad base of appeal—it truly provides an interdisciplinary focus for investigators who deal with the biological world of “hydrophobicity.”

The present editors in San Francisco have completed their first year of responsibility for maintaining the high standards set by our predecessors. We have been impressed with the diligence and quality of the work of our subeditors and expert reviewers. Although we make every effort to expedite the review process, we also have been concerned that inevitable delays at all levels of review may discourage some authors from submitting data of immediate importance to other workers. We have discussed this question with members of the editorial and advisory boards and have decided to institute a new section of the Journal, entitled “Short Communications,” on a trial basis.

Manuscripts that fulfill the criteria listed under “Information for Authors” and on page 300 of this issue will be specially processed to permit more rapid publication. *The Journal does not intend to use this mechanism as a vehicle for preliminary reports.* Originality and detailed documentation of methods and experimental results will continue to be the criteria by which these manuscripts will be judged. To facilitate evaluation, manuscripts will be reviewed directly, if possible, by a subeditor and an associate editor. Provided that a manuscript conforms in detail to the instructions under “Preparation of Manuscripts,” it will be published about 3 months after acceptance. Naturally, manuscripts requiring revision cannot be processed as rapidly.

The editors are encouraged to undertake this venture by favorable experience of other research journals with this format. We hope that readers working in all aspects of lipid research will make use of this opportunity to communicate material of immediate importance to other investigators.

Richard J. Havel  
*Editor*