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Editorial

Entering the New Millennium

Since the *Journal of Natural Products* began the present co-publication arrangement by the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Pharmacognosy in 1996, all of the cover illustrations used to date have featured natural product compounds with potential for future utilization as drugs. However, as we enter the new millennium, it is germane to reflect that many natural products already have established uses as therapeutic agents, and the two cover illustrations to be used in volume 63 of the *Journal of Natural Products* will illustrate two now well-established anticancer drugs of natural origin. The first of these covers (January–June 2000) shows a HeLa cell treated with bleomycin under a fluorescence microscope, overlapped with the structure of this compound. This forms a suitable backdrop to the invited review in the present issue by Dr. Sidney M. Hecht describing the structural and mechanistic investigations on bleomycin performed recently in his laboratory.

The structural variations of over 350 taxane diterpenoids related to paclitaxel (formerly known in the scientific literature as taxol) were reviewed by Erkan Baloglu and David G. I. Kingston in a recent issue of the journal (*J. Nat. Prod.* **1999**, *62*, 1448–1472). The second cover in volume 63 (July–December 2000) will feature a three-dimensional structure of paclitaxel in a conformation postulated to be that adopted by this drug when interacting with tubulin, according to a recent study in which Dr. Kingston was a co-author (Y.-K. Li et al., *Biochemistry* **2000**, *39*, in press).

A recently added feature in the Web edition of the journal is citation linking of the references to the relevant Chemical Abstracts Service record, which will make it easier to retrieve relevant abstract and bibliographic information. However, this will only work effectively if authors are meticulous about presenting their references accurately and fully. Prospective authors are also reminded that the available space in the *Journal of Natural Products* is ever more limited, so they are asked to consider placing technical information of lesser priority as Supporting Information, rather than in the body of a paper itself (see the relevant details in the Notice to Contributors in the present issue of the journal). The Supporting Information section is ideal for including color photographs of organisms (especially those which are unidentified as to their species), and there is no additional charge for this service.

A. Douglas Kinghorn

Editor-in-Chief

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