

Editorial

The *Journal of Peptide Science*, having completed its fourth year and now beginning Volume 5 with the present issue, can be said to be an established journal. It is indexed and abstracted in the major services such as in Chemical Abstracts, Medline and since recently also in Current Contents. Since 1997 it has been available electronically in addition to the traditional printed form.

The beginnings were rather modest. I first met the idea of a European Peptide Society Journal at the European Peptide Symposium in Spain in 1990. Being at that time the designated Symposium Chairman, who had to look forward to organizing the meeting in Interlaken 2 years later, the 'Journal' was clearly not very high on my priority list. Nevertheless, discussions continued and the issue was finally brought before the Council in Interlaken. Although there were a number of sceptical comments, the vote taken was in favour of the Journal. It then seemed natural that I should become the first Editor-in-Chief and the initial problem to be solved was the selection of our publisher. This was accomplished in collaboration mainly with the newly elected Chairman of the Society, Professor Dietrich Brandenburg. In retrospect I may say that we have never had cause to regret our decision to work with John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. In particular, I am very grateful to have been supported and advised in various ways by Martin Röthlisberger, Senior Publishing Editor and permanent link to Wiley Ltd.

A complex phase was the finalizing of the contracts between Publisher and Society after we had established the format (i.e. Aims and Scope etc.) of the future journal at a meeting organized by Martin Röthlisberger in Bern where Drs. Robert-Sheppard and Albert Loffet as members of the Executive Committee as well as Dietrich Brandenburg worked very hard in order to accomplish our goals. The legal activities related to the contracts were supervised by our honorary Chairman Dr. Geoffrey Young and thanks to his wisdom and initiatives we were able to finally sign highly satisfactory documents.

At the Bern meeting, we decided that the Journal would start in January 1995. However, in order to inform our colleagues about the new publication, we wished to distribute an advance issue during the European Peptide Symposium in Portugal in 1994. This was accomplished after I was able to invite a sufficient number of enthusiastic colleagues to become authors for this special issue. This issue was republished in slightly extended form as the first issue of Volume 1 in January/February 1995.

Being now an Emeritus Professor gradually moving away from the scenes of everyday science, I thought it wise to retire at this stage, particularly because we were able to convince an experienced and competent colleague to become my successor. I hope that Dr. John Jones of Oxford will derive as much pleasure and satisfaction from his new appointment as I have had during the last 5 years. I wish him success and good luck and hope the Journal will continue to grow knowing that its fate rests in the first place with our colleagues who are willing to contribute valuable papers.

Last but not least, I should like to thank the members of the Editorial Board with whom I had a pleasant and efficient collaboration. Thanks are also due to the colleagues of the Advisory Board and here I wish to include the unnamed colleagues who used their expertise to assess manuscripts without being on the Board. The skillful and careful evaluation of submitted contributions is an essential activity without which no journal can maintain its standards.

Conrad H. Schneider