

Editorial

The abstracts for the 26th European Peptide Symposium at Montpellier in September 2000 were published a few days before the Symposium, as a supplement to Volume 6 of this journal. This was very appropriate, because the biennial European Peptide Symposia are the principal activity of the European Peptide Society, and the *Journal of Peptide Science* is its official journal.

I must hasten to point out that the credit for attracting and arranging the abstracts is entirely due to Jean Martinez, Chairman of the Symposium (also a member of our Editorial Advisory Board) and his team. They did a terrific job, and all aspects of the Symposium were great. One feature of the registration arrangements, a brilliantly imaginative idea of Jean's, was that all who registered fully should receive the *Journal of Peptide Science* for the whole calendar year of 2001 without further formality or payment. This means that most of those who submitted abstracts for the Symposium, which were published in the journal, will be receiving this issue and the eleven which will follow it. We are pleased to be able to say that the journal, though still young, is vigorous and mature. For aficionados of such data (and those forced by their bureaucratic slave-masters to pay lip-service), its first impact factor is 1.311, which is not bad for a new journal in our field. But the main point is that we are in a rapid growth phase, and I am upbeat about the prospects for the future. To come to my principal point, I do hope that authors whose abstracts have already appeared in the journal will aspire to publish the full definitive detailed papers which will in most cases arise from their work, in the journal also. There can be no guarantee of acceptance, of course.

The journal cannot become an easy option. But no paper will be rejected without constructive criticism.

One final point. I am uncomfortably aware, in the context of the European Peptide Society, that I could hardly be more English. I know the names and origins of all my great-great-great-grandparents. Every one of them was born of agricultural labourer stock in southeast England, like me. The English language is in my genes. I speak it, think it and play with it easily. But, like so many members of my insular race, my incapacity in all other languages is a disgrace and an embarrassment. I hope, therefore, that no potential contributor from continental Europe who feels hesitant will be discouraged because he is obliged by convention to express himself awkwardly in the language of a foreign land. Nobody who has more than one language should approach an Englishman who has only one with other than a feeling of effortless superiority! I am always very pleased to be contacted informally about matters linguistic before formal submission to the journal, and am generally humbled by the experience.

Shumpei Sakakibara has retired, and consequently has stepped down as one of our Editors. We thank him warmly for his service and wish him a long and good retirement. His place is being taken by Yoshiako Kiso, who is already well-known on the European Peptide Symposium circuit. We also welcome on to the Editorial Advisory Board Antonello Pessi, Mati Fridkin and Ferenc Hudecz.

JOHN JONES
Editor-in-Chief