

Editorial

A scientific journal can inform and stimulate its readers in a number of ways. Traditionally, the principal mode is the publication of original research papers and authoritative reviews, submitted individually by active researchers. In a single issue of this Journal such papers, complemented by general articles and book reviews, are likely to present a fairly heterogeneous appearance, covering a multitude of analytical techniques and analytes: only over a long period can the reader accumulate from such issues an impression of the important areas of rapid progress in biomedical analysis. For this reason the Journal is committed to publishing from time to time Special Issues, in which particular themes or events are summarized. These Special Issues will be of several types. For example, it will sometimes be possible to report the proceedings of major international conferences. The first example of this type of Special Issue, covering the International Symposium on Drug Analysis held in Brussels in June, will appear as the next issue of the Journal. It will contain almost all the Plenary and Keynote papers from this highly successful meeting. The Editors-in-Chief are actively considering other cases of this type of Special Issue, and a number of important and prestigious conferences will be covered in the next year or two, including the Symposium on Liquid Chromatography in the Biomedical Sciences, to be held in Ronneby, Sweden, in June 1984. The Editors are of course willing to consider at any time proposals from conference organizers who would like their proceedings published in this way.

A second type of Special Issue will include conventional research papers — but all of them will be united by a particular theme. This theme may relate to a particular analytical technique, or it may deal with a particular drug or group of drugs. The issue will contain a small number of reviews followed by research papers on related topics. The first Special Issue of this type will be devoted to Non-Isotopic Immunoassay (NIIA) methods, and will be published at the start of 1985. Researchers in this field are encouraged to submit papers as soon as possible, and invitations are being circulated to established research groups with a view to securing a range of papers on various aspects of the chemistry, instrumentation and applications of NIIA. Special Issues in this category should thus present a state-of-the-art overview of a particular field. The Editors-in-Chief will welcome suggestions for other issues of this type, which it is intended should appear at the rate of about one per year. The preparation and publication of Special Issues is a particularly stimulating aspect of the development of the Journal, and we encourage our readers to lend us their enormous collective expertise to ensure the success of such issues.

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