

## Editorial

As the Journal enters its ninth year of publication, we should like to express our thanks to the many scientists world-wide who have contributed to the development of this initiative in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences — as Authors, Reviewers or as Advisors to the Editorial Board and in some cases, as all three. We also wish to welcome the new members who join the Editorial Advisory Board with this issue.

The rôle of the Journal as a monthly publication, focusing on active developments across the range of analytical technologies applied to the analysis of drugs and related compounds in the life sciences, has expanded significantly over the past 8 years. The substantial increase in page budget, the increased page size and the growing range and diversity of laboratories which submit papers for publication have all contributed to the consolidation of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* as an established international journal which, with its sister publications *Talanta* and *Spectrochimica Acta B*, is devoted to publishing research in the analytical sciences as reports of the highest international standard.

The Editorial Team is now based both in Europe and North America, and is delighted to be associated with a number of the major international Meetings and Symposia organized throughout the scientific world, by way of publishing the Proceedings and Meeting Reports in the Journal. The Team has developed a unique system for refereeing papers at the actual meetings themselves, which when coupled with the proactive contribution of the Editors and the Production Staff in Oxford in revising the English language presentation of the articles, ensures the timely publication of Symposium Proceedings as books in journal format of the highest quality.

In this latter respect, we are privileged to acknowledge the active cooperation of a number of professional associations with whom the Journal has been delighted to collaborate: the *Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques*, the *American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists*, the *Chromatographic Society*, the *Swedish Academy of Pharma-*

*ceutical Sciences*, and most recently the *Pittsburgh Conference and Exposition* in North America. To these organizations, and to their principal Officers and Executives, we extend our sincere thanks for their support and scientific input.

During recent years the Journal has been associated with a major series of *International Symposia on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, which commenced in Barcelona in 1987, and continued with a second meeting in York in 1990, while the third and fourth Symposia are planned for Boston (April 1991) and Baltimore (April 1993). It is intended that these meetings should alternate between Europe and North America over the next few years, while harmonizing with related meetings in Europe and the US — in particular, the well established triennial *International Symposium on Drug Analysis*, organized by the *Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques* (whose next meeting will be held in Liège, Belgium, in May 1992), and the Special Symposia organized by the *American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists*. The Journal's central rôle in publishing high-quality papers presented at these meetings is, we believe, an important development in establishing analytical technology as a major development area in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences.

Finally, it is a great pleasure to acknowledge the long-standing contribution of Dr Fred L. Mitchell as Associate Editor since the founding of the Journal in 1982. After a distinguished international career in Clinical Chemistry, Dr Mitchell joined the Editorial Team as a specialist in this area. His decision to retire from active scientific work of this kind in 1990 left the Editors with a very difficult task in replacing him. We wish Fred and his wife Audrey all the very best for the future. We also wish to thank those members of the Editorial Advisory Board who retire by rotation, and look forward to their continuing contribution to the development of the Journal in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences.

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