

## Editorial

In January 1992 the *Journal* was officially adopted by the Analysis and Pharmaceutical Quality (APQ) Section of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). The main objectives of this affiliation were to provide an appropriate, peer-reviewed forum for the section members to publish their research results and to provide a means by which the activities of the section could be disseminated to analytical colleagues outside the United States. Since its inception in the mid-1980s, the AAPS has grown rapidly into a major scientific organization. In 1992 the Association had nearly 6500 members, of which almost 1000 were primary members of the APQ section.

The AAPS holds an Annual Meeting and Exposition, which has grown at the same rate as the Association itself into a major scientific event. The latest meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas, from 15–19 November 1992. The San Antonio meeting was attended by more than 50% of the membership, which is unprecedented for any scientific association. The Exposition was equally successful, with 187 companies being represented.

At the San Antonio Meeting, the APQ section sponsored four Symposia Sessions on 'Impurities—Setting the Limits in the 90s' (jointly with the Regulatory Affairs Section), 'Spectroscopic Methods of Analysis', 'Analysis of Drugs in Biological Fluids', and 'Excipients: Inert Ingredients or Functional Additives?' (jointly with the Pharmaceutical Technology

Section), as well as a Round-table Discussion on 'Bioanalytical Methods Validation—Implementation Issues'. In addition, several podium and poster sessions dealt with a wide variety of topics including: Chromatography, Capillary Electrophoresis, HPLC Method Development, Assay of Biological Fluids, Automation, Spectroscopy, Assay of Drug Substances, and Analysis of Aerosols.

This issue of the *Journal* brings together some of the papers that were presented in San Antonio at the various sessions sponsored by the APQ section. It is our pleasure to publish the present APQ issue as a permanent record of the high quality of science presented at the AAPS meeting in San Antonio. We intend that a special APQ issue will become a regular feature of the *Journal*. This particular issue follows previous special issues containing papers from the Fourth International Symposium on Drug Analysis held by the Belgian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Liège, Belgium, in May 1992. Later this year we plan to publish papers from the Fourth International Symposium on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis held in Baltimore, Maryland, in April 1993. These special issues reflect our continuing commitment to bring to our readers peer-reviewed reports of high quality meetings organized by scientific bodies throughout the world.

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