



## Editorial

As the *Journal* enters its 15th year of publication, it is an appropriate time to review the principal activities and achievements in the pharmaceutical sciences arena. Since the outset in 1983, our policy has been to identify high quality research articles across the range of analytical sciences which serve the pharmaceutical and clinical areas. Although the main thrust of developments in our field is of necessity linked to separation science, particularly liquid chromatography and more recently capillary electrophoresis, the *Journal* has served as a valuable medium for advances in the technology and applications of a range of spectroscopic and electrochemical techniques. Thus the *Journal* is recognised, for example, for publishing a long series of innovative articles on high-field FT NMR in the biosciences. In addition, a valuable range of policy issues has been reviewed, including many issues in the validation of pharmaceutical and biological analysis, plus useful overviews on, for example, the chiral dimension in pharmaceutical analysis.

To support the *Journal's* main mission in publishing relevant, high quality developments in the field of pharmaceutical and clinical analysis in industry, Government service laboratories and academia, the Editorial Team have established a regular series of fully refereed special issues focusing on advances presented at international symposia in analysis for the pharmaceutical sciences. This policy serves the dual purpose of focusing on recent advances in the field, while enabling the readership to be informed of developments at meetings which they may not have been able to attend.

Starting with the valuable “*Symposia on Drug Analysis*” founded in Belgium in 1983 by the

*Société Belge des Sciences Pharmaceutiques*, for whom we are proud to have published Symposium Issues for every meeting in the series, the *Journal* has now developed links with a number of major international organisations. Notable in this respect is the *American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists*, which has given the *Journal* the prestigious accolade as “An Official Journal of the *AAPS*”, with special arrangements for supplying the *Journal* to its members at advantageous rates. Several issues have carried papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the *AAPS* in North America, and this will continue. Special issues have also been published in association with the *Swedish Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, each on particular subjects of topical interest. The Editorial Team has also established an international series of “*International Symposia on Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*,” which are held periodically in North America and Europe – the most recent was organised for the first time in Japan in Osaka, August, 1996. The *ISPBA* meetings have been well attended at venues throughout the world (a date for your diary – the 7th *ISPBA* will be held in Orlando, Florida, 4–8 May, 1997).

Interestingly, the European *ISPBA* meetings are complementary to the *ISDA* series organised in Belgium. Each of them attracts an excellent audience and brings a sharp focus to bear on analytical developments in the pharmaceutical sciences. As a matter of fact the 1998 meeting will be organised jointly in Brussels by the *Belgium Society* in partnership with members of the Editorial Team. Thereafter the Belgian series will be held every 4 years, starting in 2002, alternating with the *ISPBA* series (starting with a meeting in Edin-

burgh planned for 2000).

It is probably fair to suggest that the *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis* has gone a long way in raising the international profile of analytical technology and applications in the pharmaceutical sciences. The Editorial Team intends to continue strengthening the impact of the *Journal* in industry, and for this reason some topics will be focused in thematic issues, starting this year with Capillary Electrophoresis. Also the Board has undergone an important streamlining phase in order to facilitate communications and strengthen the management of the *Journal*. In this respect, we wish to thank those Members who rotate from the Board this year for their loyal contributions in submitting articles and, just as

important, for providing valuable reviews of manuscripts submitted for publication.

As we move into another volume of the *Journal*, we wish to express our sincere thanks to our respective secretaries for handling the continuing high volume of communications with unfailing enthusiasm and dedication. We also thank the Publisher, who has done much to bring a fresh focus and impetus to the journal's publication programme.

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