

Editorial—Views and Reviews

The *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* enjoys a reputation of seriousness and scholarship which owes much to the patient dedication of many persons over many years. It is contributed to and read by scientists in the many disciplines of drug research and development and is virtually the British journal for the pharmaceutical sciences. It is British in that it is the learned journal of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, but its authorship and distribution is world-wide.

This broadness, both geographically and scientifically, is a precious characteristic, whose preservation must remain a major objective of the Editor and the Editorial Board. The Editors of the Journal have had a strong sense of their responsibilities to the Journal to maintain the quality of its contents and to ensure that accepted papers are published without undue delay. To this end a number of measures are being implemented, including continued strict refereeing of submissions and reducing the delay in processing by encouraging authors to follow the guidelines.

Nevertheless, there are other measures that can be taken to increase the value and appeal of the Journal. Scientists read journals to keep abreast of certain fields in general, rather than to read about very specific research findings. They need a general view of some activities to help them in their research and consciously or not, they also expect some interpretation as well as concrete information. To paraphrase Claude Debussy, who remarked that 'music is the space between notes', we must recognize that knowledge is the space between the information.

Many an author, to quote T. S. Eliot in 'Whispers of

Immortality' is "expert beyond experience" and is willing and eager to offer his or her views in the form of a review article. There are specialized journals and series which publish comprehensive reviews, while some research journals also feature the occasional mini-review or commentary. Reviews are not new in the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, but the Editorial Board has now taken a conscious decision that reviews will become a more prominent feature of the Journal. Thus, a Reviews Editor has been appointed from the Board, who will invite and encourage appropriate experts to prepare contributions of interest to the broad range of pharmaceutical scientists which constitute the Journal's readership. Additionally, unsolicited reviews which meet our requirements will be welcome. It will be our aim to elicit reviews written in a critical and personal vein and presenting creative and prospective opinions. Timeliness of such reviews is critical and the Journal will reserve space to ensure that completed reviews are published as soon as possible after acceptance.

By offering 4–6 reviews of this type per year, we hope to steer a dynamic evolution for the Journal and provide a valuable service to the pharmaceutical scientist. However, the Editors can only do so much; to quote Eliot again:

For us, there is only the trying. the rest is not our business

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