

Editorial

An International Editorial Outlook for an International Journal

The *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* has a long tradition of publishing a wide spectrum of papers in the pharmaceutical sciences from the world-wide pharmaceutical science community. Such has been its popularity, together with a reputation for helping authors whose mother tongue is not English, that in the last few years, the Journal has been overburdened with good-quality submissions. We have tried to reduce the inevitable backlog of papers to be published by increasing the number of pages in the journal, advising authors to be more lucid in their writing and by the launch of a rapid publication journal, *Pharmaceutical Sciences*. This latter publication was launched as a separate publication with the express purpose of providing a vehicle for rapid publication of short reports, that could be quickly refereed and processed entirely electronically. Although these aims have been achieved over the last few years, the new journal has not been reaching the wide audience commanded by its older sibling. From January 1 1998, then, the rapid-publication journal will be issued with the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* and will be retitled *Pharmacy and Pharmacology Communications*. Short papers of acceptable standard will be given high priority for this publication so that rapid publication can be achieved as set out in the aims for the new journal.

The tremendously increased workload on the Editorial office of the Journal over the last few years has indicated that we need more help—and more importantly, more international help. We have therefore recently appointed Professor Akira Tsuji as Associate Editor for Japan for the Journal. Professor Tsuji is an acknowledged leader in the field of biomembrane transport of drugs. His major contribution to the pharmaceutical sciences lies in his novel approach and persistent effort in clarifying the role of carrier-mediated transport in the intestinal absorption and brain distribution of drugs. Professor Tsuji is also involved in applying adsorptive-mediated endocytosis to optimize the tissue delivery of biologically active peptides. The main feature of Professor Tsuji's work has been the integration of in-vivo, in-situ and in-vitro experiments. Professor Tsuji brings to the role of Associate Editor a wide experience in

publishing papers in the pharmaceutical sciences and will enable the reviewing process for Japanese authors to be carried out swiftly and efficiently. All pharmaceutical scientists in Japan are warmly invited to send their research papers to Professor Tsuji in the first instance for arranging expert review. On acceptance by Professor Tsuji, papers will then be processed by our London office as before, but more speedily as we take advantage of newer electronic procedures.

The Journal is also widening its Editorial advisory circle, principally in North America, and the Editorial Board now listed on the inside front cover reflects this policy. We are indeed fortunate to have the services of such a group of eminent scientists and I am looking forward to working with the Board to develop the reputation and quality of the Journal even further. Very soon we also hope to appoint an Associate Editor for North America, who will likewise enable the efficient and rapid evaluation of research papers from that particular area.

As mentioned above, the Journal is taking full advantage of technological advances; we can currently be found on the Internet, where the interested reader can find contents pages and abstracts of our more recent issues. We have worked hard on bringing down our times to publication so as to ensure that papers appear as soon after submission and acceptance as possible. We have done this with a great deal of friendly persuasion towards both authors and referees, and I can only express my great appreciation of the very positive response from all our friends in the pharmaceutical sciences which has made our efforts so successful. Further efforts are being made on editorial procedures after acceptance which we believe will reduce the total turnaround time even further.

As for the pharmaceutical sciences, the future looks interesting for scientific publication, and the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* and *Pharmacy and Pharmacology Communications* will be an exciting part of it.

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN