

## The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology in the New Millennium

The association between the coming of the new millennium and the desirability of making fresh starts has become something of a cliché, but is perhaps justified in the case of *The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* (and its sister journal, *Pharmacy and Pharmacology Communications*). This year sees not only a change in editor but also a relocation of the editorship of the journal, for the first time in its long and distinguished history, away from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain headquarters in London. As of January 2000, we will be assuming editorial responsibility for this publication and, over the next few months, the editorial activities associated with the journal will be relocated to The School of Pharmacy, The Queen's University of Belfast.

The burden of this responsibility is made considerably lighter by the healthy state in which the outgoing editor, Dr Joseph Chamberlain, has left the journal. At present, the subscriber base is greater than 1000; the turnover rate of papers from submission to appearance in print is on average between six and seven months; and the journal is now available in electronic form. This is a highly enviable situation and a positive reflection of the careful stewardship that the journal has enjoyed over the years. In addition to these logistical issues, the care and attention with which Joe has maintained the high standard of written English within the journal is well known and is a source of gratitude from a considerable number of authors.

In addition to an appreciation of the responsibility that this editorship carries, it is also a matter of great pride for us to take over the running of a journal that has published seminal papers on many of the most important pharmaceutical topics over the years. Indeed, we see it as an essential part of our responsibility to maintain and enhance a publishing environment whereby those authors with key contributions to make will wish to submit their

work to this journal. In order to achieve this we will be examining the breadth and scope of the journal, with a particular view to identifying areas that could be represented more strongly. In addition, the refereeing process will be examined with a view to furthering the reputation of the journal for thorough, fair and constructive treatment of submitted manuscripts. We also intend to take a proactive stand in identifying new areas that merit coverage in the journal and in this respect we will be utilising the editorial board both to review progress and to identify issues of future importance.

We hope that those reading this editorial will continue to support the journal in terms of readership, submissions and refereeing. This publication has made a very considerable contribution to pharmacology and the pharmaceutical sciences and it is our full intention to maintain and enhance the standards of excellence that the pharmaceutical community associates with the journal. It only remains for us, on behalf of the RPSGB, and indeed the pharmaceutical science community, to thank Joe for all his outstanding work on this journal. We fully intend to build on the high standards that he has established and we wish him every happiness for his retirement.

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*Please note that manuscripts should still be sent to the current address until the relocation process is complete. Details of the new submission procedure will be circulated shortly.*