

Editorial

Changes to the Composition and Role of the Editorial Board

This December 2000 issue of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* marks the end of our first year as Editors. The year has been both challenging and exciting as we have sought to shape the future direction of this respected journal. We have been extremely fortunate in this venture in being able to draw on the expertise and enthusiasm of the Editorial Board. However, as one may imagine during a time of rapid change for the Journal, the composition of the Editorial Board has evolved greatly over the last year and will continue to do so. This has arisen as a result of both the need for us to introduce some new blood onto the team and also the necessity of some board members to step down due to their other obligations. We are delighted to welcome several new members, namely Dr Gavin Brooks, Professor Bill Charman, Dr Chris Doherty, Professor Michael Heinrich, Professor Peter Houghton, Professor Sean Gorman, Professor Tony Moffatt, Dr Caitriona O'Driscoll, Dr Catherine Petts and Dr Colin Pouton. However, we are sorry to say that we have also lost three very valued members of the board who have stepped down after a long and distinguished contribution to the Journal. We offer our sincere thanks to Professor Douwe Breimer, Professor John Ferrara and Professor David Ganderton for all their hard work as authors, referees and most importantly as advisors to the past and present editors.

The Editors would also like to express their wholehearted thanks to the contribution made to the Journal by Professor Akira Tsuji in running the Japanese Office of the Journal up to the end of this year. Professor Tsuji assumed this role in 1997 and has since then been responsible for the selection and processing of papers submitted by Japanese groups. This has been an invaluable aid to us and to our predecessor, particularly in view of the international quality of the science being performed in this country. However, Professor Tsuji felt that his other professional commitments, combined with the logistical issues of keeping parity between the UK and Japanese offices during this period of rapid change, rendered his continued role as Associate Editor impractical. We are, however, delighted to

emphasize that Professor Tsuji will continue as a member of the Editorial Board and we look forward to working with him in the future. We have also left the door very much ajar for the re-establishment of this office as we are only too well aware of how useful it has been in the past. As a result of this change please would Japanese authors now send their contributions directly to the Belfast office.

Since taking over editorial responsibility for the Journal we have instigated a number of changes, which will culminate in the relaunch of the Journal in January 2001. One major change has been the amalgamation of the Journal with its sister publication *Pharmacy and Pharmacology Communications* and the reinstatement of a communications section in the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*. In addition the Journal will benefit from a distinctive new design from the January issue onwards.

We will be publishing an editorial in the first issue of the relaunched publication next month, in which we will outline our hopes and vision for future of the Journal. However, at the close of this first year of our stewardship we would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to all those who have offered their support and advice. These include the Chairman and members of the Editorial Board, members of the publishing team, referees, and most important of all the authors who are submitting quality manuscripts in ever increasing numbers. We feel that with your assistance the Journal is going from strength to strength and look forward with optimism and enthusiasm to the New Year.

Professor Duncan Q. M. Craig
Professor David S. Jones

The School of Pharmacy
The Queen's University of Belfast
Biomedical Centre
97 Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 7BL,
Northern Ireland