

## The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology – Two Years On

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This January marks the second anniversary of our stewardship of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, during which time we have been in a position to make strides towards establishing the direction of the Journal in terms of both content and culture. This has been particularly aided by our close collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Press and the Editorial Board. In addition, we greatly appreciate the support and goodwill that has been extended towards the Journal by many members of the scientific community, particularly in terms of submissions and reviewing.

This second anniversary provides a suitable opportunity to both review the achievements to date and also to comment on the future direction of the Journal. The past year saw the relaunch of the Journal in its new, more modern format that seems to have been greeted with universal acclaim and we extend our congratulations to the publishers for instigating this very positive advance. For our part, we have also modified many of the processes involved in refereeing the papers and we believe that this has resulted in a marked improvement in both the standard of the work accepted and processing time. In particular, we have invested a great deal of effort in improving the refereeing process such that papers are reviewed by workers whose expertise lies as close to the subject area of the manuscript as possible. We can now provide our contributors with between two and four well-informed and detailed sets of comments. In addition, we have modified the contact logistics in such a way that we can more or less guarantee an initial decision within eight weeks of receipt of the paper, with the vast majority of authors hearing within six weeks. However, such improvements come at a cost. Over the last twelve months we have seen not only an approximately 40% increase in the number of submissions but also a marked increase in quality. While this is clearly to be welcomed, it has meant that we have had to be far more selective with regard to what is accepted than was the case two years ago, with our rejection rate currently running at approximately 70%. We do, however, guarantee to always treat authors with respect as submissions are invariably made in good faith, even if we are not able to accept them for subsequent publication.

In terms of the content of the Journal, there have again been significant changes. We are delighted to announce that last year we had a review article in every issue and are set to continue this practice in the future and we would like to express our wholehearted thanks to the authors involved. As far as original articles are concerned, we would emphasise that we fully intend to maintain our effectively unique position as being the only major pharmaceutical journal that publishes work in all aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences. We believe that the future of pharmaceutical science lies in collaborative and multidisciplinary work that blurs the traditional boundaries of the field, hence we consider it essential to maintain a broad

church in which excellent work will be welcome even if it does not fit into existing categories. However, by the same token we must look carefully at submitted work before sending manuscripts to referees, thereby asking already busy individuals to devote time to the Journal, to ensure that the submission fits in with the philosophy of the editorial policy. To this effect we are not able to process papers whereby the work is clearly preliminary in nature or only makes an incremental contribution to a known research paradigm. We would ask authors to be self-selecting and bear in mind that we are currently only able to publish the highest quality material.

Finally we would like to extend our thanks to the Editorial Board who have provided us with outstanding support and advice over the last two years. As with any such Board, the membership is dynamic as the circumstances of the individuals involved change. To this effect we would like to express our sincere thanks to the following members who stepped down as of the end of 2001: Professor L L Augsburger, Dr E Bejar, Professor E Beubler, Dr D R Friend, Dr W E Lindup, Professor A

C Moffat, Professor R J Naylor, Professor S Oie, Professor C W Pouton, Professor W R Ravis, Dr J E Riviere, Professor J R Robinson, Dr A Rolland, Dr H-H Tai, Dr E Tomlinson, Dr B Widdop and Professor D E Wurster. However, we are delighted to welcome the following who have kindly agreed to join us: Dr David Brayden (Department of Small Animal Clinical Studies, University College Dublin), Professor K Broadley (Welsh School of Pharmacy, Cardiff University), Professor J Dressman Johann (Wolfgang Goethe Universitat, Germany), Dr Bruno Hancock (Pfizer Cental Research, USA), Dr Hans Lennarnäs (Sweden), Dr Kevin Shakesheff (Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, University of Nottingham), and Professor Roger Waigh (Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Strathclyde). We very much welcome the opportunity to work with these new colleagues and look forward to 2002 with optimism and continued determination. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers, contributors, referees and Board members a very happy new year.