

The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology – four years on

It is our great pleasure to comment on the status and achievements of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (JPP)* over the past year. It is now four years since the current Editors assumed stewardship of the Journal and we are delighted that the direction of the *JPP* has been positive and consistent with our vision. This has been particularly aided by our close collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Press and the Editorial Board. In addition, we greatly appreciate the continuing support and goodwill that has been extended towards the Journal by many members of the scientific community, particularly in terms of submissions and reviewing.

We are delighted to announce that over the past year the impact factor of the *JPP* has increased, thereby maintaining a trend that has been apparent in recent years under the direction of the current editorial team. The quality of a scientific journal depends on many aspects and requires, firstly, the submission of high quality manuscripts and, secondly, quality reviewing of the manuscripts by conscientious reviewers. The Editors have been extremely pleased to receive high quality manuscripts relating to all scientific disciplines within the scope of the Journal. The selection of referees is a critical step in the reviewing process and it is the policy of the Editors to select referees who are experts in their chosen fields. We are fortunate that the vast majority of these referees respond to our requests concerning the refereeing of manuscripts by providing high quality critical reviews. The Editors would like to express their sincere gratitude to these referees and we hope that they feel part of the *JPP* community. The responses of the authors to the received reviews are very positive and we hope that both the quality of the reviews and the welcoming approach of the Editors continue to endear authors to the *JPP*. One further service that has been appreciated by authors is the inclusion, where necessary, of a statistical editorial report with every accepted manuscript. This report critically reviews the statistical methods used and provides statistical advice to enhance the quality of the finished publication.

Over this past year the success of the published reviews in the *JPP* has been apparent. In line with the broad scientific scope of the Journal, these reviews have encompassed many scientific disciplines and have been both topical in nature and timely. The reviews will form an integral part of the *JPP* for the forthcoming year and, in light of their popularity, it is hoped that some issues will contain two reviews.

The main advance in the development of the *JPP* in 2004 will be the introduction of online submission and processing of manuscripts, scheduled to commence on the 1st March 2004. Online submission has grown in significance in the world of scientific publishing over the past 2 years and accordingly it has been decided that *JPP* will embrace this technology using the excellent Editorial Manager platform. This platform was carefully chosen by both Pharmaceutical Press and the Editors to be directly applicable to the operation of the *JPP*. The implementation of online submission and processing offers many advantages to authors, including ease of submission, the ability of authors to track the progress of manuscripts thereby offering greater manuscript visibility and, whilst the current time from submission to initial acceptance for publication in the *JPP* is short (usually less than 8 weeks), it is hoped that online processing of manuscripts will further reduce this time. The *JPP* will, however, still happily continue to accept the offline submission of manuscripts throughout 2004 – following receipt and where possible, these manuscripts will be entered into the Editorial Manager platform to facilitate review and hence publication. Both the Editors and Pharmaceutical Press are fully committed to the future online submission/processing of manuscripts and it is believed that this decision offers many possibilities for the evolution of the *JPP*.

Finally, the Editors would like to extend our thanks to the Editorial Board that has provided us with outstanding support and essential advice over the past year. The

commitment of the Editorial Board is vital to the smooth running, success and development of the *JPP*. We would like to acknowledge the support of those members who have stood down from the Editorial Board at the end of 2003. The Editors have greatly appreciated their previous commitment to the *JPP*. We are delighted to welcome several new colleagues who will be joining the Editorial Board from January 2004 and indeed the Editors are relishing the opportunity to work with these new additions. On a personal note, the Editors especially wish to thank Mr. Paul Weller and Ms. Helen Bond from the

Pharmaceutical Press who have and who continue to share the same passion for the *JPP* as the Editors. Their commitment and friendship are greatly appreciated. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers, contributors, referees and Board members a very happy new year.

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