

The *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* – five years on

Once again, as the year draws to a close, it is my great pleasure to summarize and comment on the status and achievements of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* (*JPP*) over the past year. Five years have now passed since the relocation of the editorial office to Belfast and I am delighted to report that the direction of the *JPP* has continued to be positive and consistent with the vision that has been defined by the Editor, the Editorial Board and the Pharmaceutical Press. In addition, I would like to formally recognize 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. May I extend my sincere gratitude to all those people who have supported the Journal throughout the past year and have been instrumental in the improving status of the *JPP*.

First and foremost, I am delighted to announce that the impact factor of the *JPP* has increased from 1.288 to 1.502, representing the highest value in the history of the Journal. The reasons for this improved impact factor are many. As readers will be aware, the quality of a scientific journal depends on several aspects, including the submission of high-quality manuscripts and quality reviewing of the manuscripts by conscientious reviewers. The *JPP* has directly benefited on both accounts. In particular (and once again), I am delighted by the high-quality manuscripts that have been submitted relating to all scientific disciplines within the scope of the Journal. Furthermore, the *JPP* is extremely fortunate that the vast majority of referees respond to our requests to referee manuscripts by providing high-quality, critical reviews. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to these referees and hope that they feel part of the *JPP* community and can feel some pride in the increased impact factor. The responses of the authors to the received reviews are very positive and I hope that both the quality of the reviews and the welcoming approach of the editorial office continue to endear authors to the *JPP*. As in previous years, the *JPP* has continued to employ the services of a statistical editor whose role includes the preparation, where necessary, of a statistical editorial report for every accepted manuscript. Once again, the positive response of the authors to this service has been most satisfying.

Over this past year the success of the published reviews has been growing and this is particularly pleasing to all concerned with the mechanics of the Journal. In line with the broad scientific scope of the *JPP*, these reviews have encompassed many scientific disciplines and have been topical in nature and timely. The reviews will continue to form an integral part of the *JPP* for the forthcoming year. Furthermore, over the course of the next calendar year, it is proposed to introduce a new concept to the *JPP*, namely the publication of themed issues. In these it is proposed to dedicate considerable space in one issue to the publication of a series of invited original papers within a common research theme. The content of these themed issues will be topical and the selected papers will be of the highest research quality, being refereed in accordance with Journal policy. Several topics for themed issues are either in progress or are under discussion at present. It is expected that the first themed issue will focus on novel drugs from natural sources.

As all authors and reviewers will be aware, the *JPP* has now moved seamlessly to online submission, reviewing and publication of manuscripts using the Editorial Manager platform. The implementation of this system has been a major success, resulting in an increased number of submissions, enabling visibility of the status of the submitted manuscript by the authors whilst still ensuring that the processing and publication times for manuscript are short. Typically the time from submission to initial acceptance for publication in the *JPP* using this format is short (usually less than 8 weeks). At this point I must thank Ms Grainne McCarron for her efforts in implementing and maintaining the online aspects of the Journal. In addition, the role of the Pharmaceutical Press in the success of the online system must be acknowledged, as

should the vision of this organization in making the final decision to adopt this system. Both the Editor and Pharmaceutical Press are fully committed to the future online submission/processing of manuscripts and it is believed that this implementation of the Editorial Manager system offers many further possibilities for the evolution of the *JPP*.

From the beginning of 2005 there will be a change in the editorial structure of the *JPP*. As the readers are aware, Professor Duncan Craig and I have been the co-editors of the Journal since the relocation of the editorial office to the Queen's University of Belfast (QUB). Whilst the editorial office has remained at QUB, Duncan left Belfast in August 2003 to take up the position of Head of Pharmacy within the School of Chemistry and Pharmacy at the University of East Anglia. Although the geographical separation did not affect the operation of the *JPP*, particularly since the introduction of online submission/processing of manuscripts, the increased workload associated with this new academic position has placed greater limitations on Duncan's contribution to the *JPP*. Therefore, Duncan has decided to relinquish his role of co-editor and, accordingly, I have accepted the role of sole Editor of the Journal (from January 2005). I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Duncan over the period in which we were co-editors, and I take this opportunity to thank him most sincerely for his commitment to the *JPP* over the past four years. On a related note, I am sorry to report that Ms Helen Bond, who was responsible for publishing aspects of the *JPP*, has left the Pharmaceutical Press to take up a senior position within the world of publishing. Her contribution to the

Journal cannot be overstated and I wish her every success in the future. On a positive front, I am delighted to announce that Ms Natalie Woodbridge has been appointed to replace Helen. The editorial office is particularly looking forward to working with Natalie and, at this opportunity, may I wish Natalie every success in this new, challenging role.

Finally, as in previous years, I would like to extend my thanks to the Editorial Board for the provision of outstanding support and essential advice over the past year. The commitment of the Editorial Board is essential to the smooth running, success and development of the *JPP*. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the support of those members who have decided to step down from the Editorial Board at the end of 2004; their support of the Journal has been appreciated. Several new colleagues will be joining the Editorial Board in the new year and I am relishing the opportunity to work with these new additions. On a personal note, I especially wish to thank Mr Paul Weller from the Pharmaceutical Press who continues to show great passion, commitment and vision for the *JPP*. His contributions in this respect and great friendship are greatly appreciated. Furthermore, I would like to most sincerely thank Ms Grainne McCarron for her friendship and her loyalty to, commitment to, and hard work on behalf of the *JPP*. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers, contributors, referees and Board members a very happy new year.

David S. Jones
December 2004