

The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 2005

At this, the start of another calendar year, it is my great pleasure to summarize and comment on the activities of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (JPP)* over the past year. Once more, 2005 has been an exciting period for the Journal and one in which the direction of the *JPP* has been positive and has encompassed the strategies that were defined by the Editor, the Editorial Board and the Pharmaceutical Press at the start of the year. As in previous years, 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*.

The Journal continues to receive and publish high quality manuscripts in a wide range of scientific disciplines, namely Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery, Biopharmaceutics and Drug Disposition, Drugs from Natural Sources, Molecular Clinical Pharmacology and Biomedical Chemistry. Both the diversity and quality of manuscripts published by the *JPP* preserve its status as a major (high class) journal for the publication of all aspects of the pharmaceutical and related sciences. This success is due to a number of factors including: the selection of the *JPP* by authors for their (high quality) manuscripts; and the excellent standards of reviewing of submitted manuscripts by conscientious reviewers. These continue to be two key features of the Journal. At this stage I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both the authors of manuscripts for selecting the *JPP* to publish their research and, in addition, to the referees who respond to my requests by providing excellent referee reports. I hope that both parties feel part of the *JPP* community and have great pride in the ongoing evolution and (high) quality of the Journal.

As in previous years, the *JPP* continues to publish a range of different manuscript types, including reviews, full papers and communications. The success of reviews in the *JPP*, the majority of which are by invitation only, continues to grow and this manuscript type is a significant contributor to the Journal. In addition, this year has witnessed the introduction of themed issues within the *JPP*. In these a series of invited original papers within a common research theme are published. The research theme must be topical and the published papers are chosen to be of the highest research quality and are refereed in accordance with journal policy. The inaugural themed issue was published in the September 2005 issue of the Journal and was entitled *Drugs from Neotropical Origin*. In this issue, multidisciplinary (often multinational) collaborative contributions from research groups in Mexico, Italy, the USA and the United Kingdom were published that described the chemical and biological properties of novel drugs from primarily Central American and Mexican sources. The topics of the papers in the themed issue were of great interest both to those directly in the area of drugs from natural sources and also to those who have a general interest in novel developments in Pharmacy and Pharmacology. As the Editor of the *JPP*, I am delighted by the positive response of the scientific community to this special issue. I must acknowledge the excellent and invaluable contribution of Professor Michael Heinrich, who proposed this theme and was responsible for both the organization and coordination of the issue. Furthermore, I am grateful for Michael's ability to recruit leading, international research groups in this area to submit their research to the *JPP*. Without Michael's efforts, this themed issue would not have progressed. In light of the success of this themed issue, several other themed issues are either in preparation or are under discussion. These include, *Particulate Systems for Vaccination* (in conjunction with Dr Yvonne Perrie, University of Aston, UK), *Pharmacology and Ageing* (in conjunction with Dr Marcus Allen, University of Brighton, UK) and *Spectroscopical Methods for Pharmaceutical Solids* (in conjunction with Professor Thomas Rades, University of Otago, New Zealand).

As all authors and reviewers will be aware, the *JPP* currently operates an online submission system (Editorial Manager) to facilitate the review and publication of manuscripts. The implementation of this system has been a major success, resulting in a dramatic increase in the number of submissions. The system has also ensured that the processing and publication times for manuscripts remains short and has allowed authors to securely track online the progress of their manuscript. Typically the time from submission to initial acceptance for publication in the *JPP* using this format is short (usually less than 10 weeks). At this point I must thank Ms Grainne McCarron for her efforts in 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. Both the Editor and Pharmaceutical Press are fully committed to the 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*.

Finally, as in previous years, I would like to extend my thanks to the Editorial Board for the provision of outstand-

ing 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 *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*. In addition, I wish to acknowledge the support of Mrs Natalie Lane from the Pharmaceutical Press for her invaluable expertise regarding the processing of manuscripts that have been accepted for publication in the *JPP*. 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 invaluable support and great friendship are sincerely appreciated. Furthermore, I would like to thank Ms Grainne McCarron for her friendship and her loyalty, 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
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