

Themed Issue: *Challenges and Advances in Vaccine Delivery: Unlocking the Pharmaceutical Conundrum*

As readers of the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* (JPP) will be aware, the concept of themed issues was introduced in 2005. In these, substantial space in one issue of the JPP is allocated to the publication of a series of invited, peer reviewed original papers within a common research theme. The objectives of these themed issues are to ensure that the content is both topical and that those papers selected are of the highest research quality, being peer reviewed in accordance with journal policy. The first themed issue (*Drugs from Neotropical Origin*) was enthusiastically received by the scientific community. Whilst the logistics of the organization and coordination were challenging, it is our great pleasure to present the second themed issue, *Challenges and Advances in Vaccine Delivery: Unlocking the Pharmaceutical Conundrum*, in the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*. One of the challenges of this themed issue is the selection of a "theme" that would be of interest to experts in the research area but also be of interest to the readership of the journal. We believe that the papers published in the second themed issue are exciting and will be as equally well received as its predecessor.

For many years one of the limits of successful vaccination is the mode of delivery. Consequently, whilst there are many vaccines available to patients, many of these are conventional in design and employ standard adjuvants to stimulate the immunological response. The main area in which vaccines, and hence vaccination, may be improved is by optimization of their formulation. This goal is non-trivial and requires an intricate blend of the pharmaceutical sciences and immunology. Moreover, having identified formulations that successfully enhance the immune response and/or improve the mode of delivery, a further challenge exists in the commercial manufacture of these systems to ensure physical, chemical and immunological stability. In this themed issue we are delighted to welcome multidisciplinary, often multinational collaborative contributions from research groups in New Zealand, Canada, France, Denmark and the United Kingdom. These describe the design, formulation and physicochemical and biological characterisation of novel vaccine systems and, in addition, the manufacture of these systems. The topics of the papers in the themed issue will be of great interest both to those directly in the area of vaccine design and formulation and also those who have a general interest in novel developments in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

Once again the JPP will ensure that the papers published will be disseminated to the key research groups who are involved in this field of research. It is hoped that this will both publicize the research of those groups who have contributed to this themed issue and additionally consolidate the profile of the JPP in the field. As mentioned previously, the provision of this themed issue has raised many logistical challenges and accordingly, there are many people whom we would like to thank for their tireless efforts on behalf of the journal. Firstly, we must thank Grainne Caffrey at the JPP editorial office in Belfast and Natalie Lane at Pharmaceutical Press for ensuring that the papers were carefully processed and published to their deserved high quality. In addition, the support of the Pharmaceutical Press, in particular Paul Weller, for the concept of the themed issue has been invaluable. Finally, the Editor wishes to record his gratitude to his colleague and friend Dr Yvonne Perrie for her vision, organisation and ability to recruit high quality research groups involved in this area to submit their research to the JPP.

Professor David S. Jones
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