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Editorial

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Editorial

As this is my last issue as Editor of the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry*, I thought that I would close out the past twenty-two years by reminiscing a little about this experience and thanking all of those people who have been a part of this endeavor. But first I decided that it would be worthwhile recalling to you, the readers, when and how the journal began, and to perhaps gauge how well the journal has done since its beginning. So to get a sense of where we started from, I went back to the very first issue and pulled out the editorial I wrote introducing the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry* to the scientific community. Here is that editorial in its entirety.

“As an introduction to the first issue of the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry*” I thought it might be of interest to you, the reader, to learn how the journal got started. In early 1981 Maurits Dekker, of Marcel Dekker, Inc., called me and asked me if I would consider editing a new carbohydrate journal, the nature of which was to be determined. Admittedly, it was an interesting offer, but one that raised a number of difficult questions. What needs would the journal fill? What subject matter should the journal cover? How often should it be published?

Early on I realized that if a new journal was to be started it could not satisfactorily cover the entire research domain of carbohydrates, but must focus on a limited but highly significant area of the field. After a number of conversations with other carbohydrate chemists, I formulated the aims and scope of the journal, as described on the inside cover. Essentially, the journal will emphasize the organic chemistry of carbohydrates, excluding polysaccharides, in the context of synthetic, mechanistic, and spectroscopic studies, and to some extent, chromatographic studies. Three issues of the journal will be published in 1982, and six issues a year thereafter. Manuscripts that have been properly refereed and put in their final form will be photographed for publication. This type of format is designed to minimize the time required for publication of accepted manuscripts and keep journal costs reasonable.



As Editor, I am very grateful to David Baker, Roger Binkley, Gérard Descotes, Akira Hasegawa and Joachim Thiem for taking on the duties of Regional Editors. It is also gratifying that the concept of the journal as outlined has been so well received. This is reflected in the outstanding membership of the Editorial Board. Most of my correspondence concerned with the journal this year was done during my leave at the A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company. I thank the Company for their support during this period. I also extend my thanks to those authors who worked so hard preparing manuscripts for the first issue.

I and all those associated with the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry* welcome your comments and suggestions for improving the Journal. It is our sincere hope that you will enjoy reading the journal and that it will benefit you in your research endeavors.

Donald E. Kiely
Editor (1982)

After twenty-two years it would appear that the original aims of the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry*, with a few changes, are still relevant and operating. However, some changes have occurred and include a typeset format, inclusion of some polysaccharide chemistry, publication of nine issues a year since 1995, and of course operating in an electronic world rather than one dependent on worldwide mail service. Clearly the domain of carbohydrate chemistry is much larger than it was in 1982; computational chemistry of carbohydrates was in its very early stages in 1982, the terms “glycochemistry” and “glycobiology” were not part of the carbohydrate chemistry vocabulary, the use of carbohydrates as renewable chemical resources was not particularly important, and interest in and understanding of the roles that carbohydrates play in the disease process was beginning a scientific surge that continues to grow. So after the past twenty-two years as editor, I am delighted to see the growing interest in the chemistry, biology and technology of carbohydrates, and the expanding opportunities for the *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry* in publishing high quality papers in the field of carbohydrate chemistry. I leave the journal in good hands thanks to my very competent and loyal Regional Editors, Drs. Thiem, Wessel, Giuliano, Kiso and Mulard, and I have great confidence in the skills of the journal's new Editor, Dr. Peter Seeberger. I wish them all my very best. Editorial Board members have changed as have some of the Regional Editors but all of them past and present were of enormous help to me. To all those fine people at Marcel Dekker, Inc. who have been so supportive of my efforts for so many years, I also send my thanks. They have been great to work with.

Finally, I want to thank all those authors from all over the world who I have worked with in the publication of their manuscripts. That has been the real “fun part” of this job.

Donald E. Kiely
Retiring Editor
August 18, 2003

