

JOURNAL OF  
**MEDICINAL  
CHEMISTRY**

© Copyright 1994 by the American Chemical Society

Volume 37, Number 18

September 2, 1994

*Editorial*

---

**The Perspective Series**

The Perspective series in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry has traditionally differentiated itself from other types of review article by being envisaged as an enlightened appraisal of a field of research in which recognized experts in the field are encouraged to express their views on the direction of a given area in addition to providing an in depth, current, and comprehensive review of the area covering both biological and medicinal chemistry approaches. As such, the Perspective series has been a topical forum that achieves very high visibility within the pharmaceutical industry and academia with an audience of both medicinal chemists and pharmacologists. Articles in the Perspective series are also intended to be brief, running to a maximum of 8–12 printed pages in the Journal. This is intended to be useful to, and hold the interest of, the general reader.

Approximately 18 months ago, I assumed the newly created position of Perspective Editor for the Journal with the mandate of increasing the frequency of publication of the Perspective articles and enhancing their visibility as unique accounts of research areas of interest to medicinal chemists. This has been an exciting challenge and I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress and plans for the future.

We currently have commitments for 40 Perspective articles from a very distinguished group of authors. Another 30 or so are in the planning stage with author recruitment ongoing. However, in order to achieve the necessary visibility and usefulness of the series, we have targeted a minimum of 12 and an ideal number of 18–20 Perspective articles per year.

The uniqueness of the Perspective series is several fold. Firstly, the timely coverage of important developments in therapeutic targets and technologies relevant to the area of medicinal chemistry, and by extrapolation of interest to all those involved in the process of drug discovery. Secondly, where appropriate, a melding of advances in both biology and medicinal chemistry, and thirdly, the chosen author's (or authors') expert viewpoint on the direction of the field under review. Such viewpoints are intended to be both authoritative and, where appropriate, provocative. Thus Perspective articles are neither a retrospective overview nor an account of research efforts from a single laboratory but rather a balanced and objective appraisal of all relevant work in a given area. Other journals cover the former topics in admirable fashion, and it would be of no advantage to the readership of the Journal to find review articles that are no different than those published elsewhere.

Since the vision for the Perspective series is long range, it is important that interested authors contact us before starting work on a Perspective article so that we can avoid the embarrassment of duplication and also discuss with the authors the content of the article to ensure that the Perspective criteria are met.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for Perspective articles, we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Mike Williams**, *Perspective Editor*