

Editorial

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH has completed its first year of publication. Against the trend of ever more highly specialized journals, and despite the current journal glut that could stifle any new initiative, PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH has rapidly emerged as an important publication forum in the general area of the pharmaceutical-biomedical sciences. In the first year we have published contributions from many highly respected scientists. Moreover, we were able to attract an interesting spectrum of review articles that have found immediate and broad attention as judged by the large number of reprint requests to the authors. Not surprisingly, pharmaceutical topics represented a large component of the research articles and reports, which is consistent with the current emphasis in the area of drug delivery. Yet, contributions were also received on subjects from a wide range of disciplines related to drug discovery and evaluation, eg medicinal chemistry, natural products, analytical chemistry, physiology, pharmacology, biochemical pharmacology. Although still in its infancy, the Letter section has served authors to convey brief messages of topical interest. Finally, manuscripts have been received from all over the world.

What do we strive to achieve over the second year of PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH? First priority must be given to the scientific quality of the research articles in order to fully establish the journal as a highly prestigious publication forum. High quality as the first priority means the continuation of the journal's rather conservative format with a bimonthly publica-

tion schedule to permit the suitable selection of publishable manuscripts. Second priority will be the expansion of the authorship to disciplines that are traditionally outside the pharmaceutical area per se, but that are germane to drug discovery and development, eg in biochemistry, material sciences, computer sciences, chemical engineering.

Let me also do some editorial accounting; by this time we have received approximately 200 manuscripts, with an acceptance rate of 60–65%. The rather high acceptance rate was accomplished mainly by a careful editorial review process that in many cases resulted in a sizeable shortening of manuscripts, in collaboration with the external referees and the authors. The overall time to publication after first submission (and including time for revisions) ranged between 5 to 12 months, which is quite good for a journal with a rigorous peer review system.

Indeed, the review process critically depends on the external referees who usually have taken extraordinary care in reviewing manuscripts and helping authors to improve the clarity of the paper. I take this opportunity to thank all referees for their efforts; a list of the referees for the 1984 volume is published in this issue.

Finally, I count on the continued support of the readership and authors of PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH. Scientists of the pharmaceutical community should take pride in fostering a prestigious journal from within their discipline.