

Editorial

In 1989, *Pharmaceutical Research* made even further advances as a premier scientific journal in the pharmaceutical-biomedical sciences. With the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) growing rapidly in membership (~4500) and scientific stature, there is an increasing flow of manuscripts of overall higher quality submitted to *Pharmaceutical Research*. Further, the commitment of the AAPS membership to *Pharmaceutical Research* greatly facilitates the task of the editors in selecting first-rate and conscientious referees for each submitted paper, a *sine qua non* for any successful peer-review journal. More than anyone else, the referees are the guardians of the journal's quality, and their personal participation is acknowledged in the December 1989 issue. While the referees' standards for quality are ever more stringent, the rejection rate remains largely unchanged at 1 in 3 papers, as the overall quality of all submitted papers increases.

The following figures highlight the journal's recent development:

Year	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Pages	370	548	818	1088	1258
Manuscripts received	160	285	325	400	?

During 1989, rather interesting changes occurred in the distribution of submitted manuscripts among the various specialty areas (categorized here by AAPS section):

	PDD	PPDM	PT	MNPC	APQ	BT	Other	EMMS
1988	34%	25%	13%	10%	15%	^a	3%	—
1989	27%	23%	16%	13%	12%	6%	3%	—

^a Not listed separately in 1988.

Each of seven areas is now represented by an Associate Editor, and the papers in each area are evaluated by expert peers in their respective fields. While Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery (PDD) and Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Drug Metabolism (PPDM) remain the two strongest contributors, significant gains are noted in Pharmaceutical Technology (PT) and Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry (MNPC). These trends will become more apparent during 1990 when papers submitted in late 1989 will be published. A promising start was made in Biotechnology (BT), which we hope will become an area of

strength within the AAPS. The analytical chemistry of drugs [Analysis and Pharmaceutical Quality (APQ)] was less well represented in 1989. As drug analysis represents an important facet of the pharmaceutical sciences, we will be actively recruiting authors in this area. Similarly, we will focus our attention in 1990 on attracting more authors from abroad, notably Europe and Japan, but also other countries. Science is not restricted by national boundaries, and the editors of *Pharmaceutical Research* are committed to its international role as a leading scientific journal.

The extraordinary growth of *Pharmaceutical Research* propels continuous changes in editorial organization and policies. The newly appointed Associate Editors have taken on their tasks with enthusiasm, and we are indebted to them for their efforts. Further, we intend to organize the journal by section in order to facilitate the reader's search for articles in selected areas. We have also decided to change the referencing format to include the full title of each cited article—both journal-article and book-chapter titles. Inclusion of the title allows one to more quickly scan the references for papers of interest, but authors should become more judicious in their citations in order not to increase unduly the length of their manuscripts. A limit of 30 entries in the References section of each article will be enforced, unless the author can show that more references are needed. Full titles will be requested immediately for newly submitted papers, and will be required for articles published in 1991. (See point 12 of the Instructions to Contributors for style.)

We also continue to endorse, especially for papers published in *Pharmaceutical Research*, an AAPS policy requesting full disclosure of extramural funds for research. Divulging the name of sponsors will avoid any hint of a conflict of interest which could arise if project results are advantageous to an anonymous sponsor.

As an important step in gaining broad dissemination of its articles, *Pharmaceutical Research* is now covered by Index Medicus/MEDLARS, retroactive to 1987.

For 1990 I look forward to a continuing dialogue among editors, editorial advisors, authors, referees, and readers of *Pharmaceutical Research*. Please let me know of any suggestions or critiques so that I can maintain *Pharmaceutical Research* as a valuable publication forum in the pharmaceutical sciences.

W. Sadée
Editor-in-Chief