

## Editorial

After serving for ten years as Editor of *Pharmaceutical Research*, it is time to step aside and make room for new leadership. I am confident that Vincent Lee and the new editorial board have the insight, vision, and dedication to shepherd the journal in its continuing development. The stature of any research field is characterized by the journals emanating from it, and therefore, it is vitally important that professional and scientific associations carry the burden of ensuring strong journals in their field. From its inception, the AAPS has made it a top priority to foster *Pharmaceutical Research* as its premier publication forum, and I am personally indebted to the foresight of the founders for their strong support. Because of its continuing growth, the association is now in a position to launch additional journals, a task already implemented successfully by the APQ section.

The intensive early investment by the AAPS has paid off for *Pharmaceutical Research*. It is currently regarded by many as the main publication forum in the pharmaceutical sciences worldwide. Personal commitment and dedication of the editorial board rank as the key factors in this extraordinary development. Since the flavor of a scientific field is molded by the participating scientists as authors, referees, and editors, we had appointed a rather large editorial advisory board, regional editors for Japan and Europe, and associate editors for the specialty fields and sections in AAPS. Above all, their personal involvement, insights into specialty areas, personal contacts with colleagues, and colorful spectrum of opinions and philosophies, have shaped the journal. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of all these individuals. On many occasions, I needed to lean on the editorial advisors to resolve disputes among authors and referees, sort out ethical questions, and determine future directions of journal policy. Distributed all over the world, the advisors have provided balanced representation from many disciplines and geographical regions.

With the AAPS taking on sponsorship of *Pharmaceutical Research*, there was some initial doubt among the international community whether the journal would become a national publication, rather than blending into the emerging international pharmaceutical science arena. Again, the AAPS leadership had clearly committed the journal to serve all pharmaceutical communities around the globe. Because of this foresight, we were able to attract the participation of outstanding scientists in Europe and Japan as regional editors for *Pharmaceutical Research*. Douwe Breimer had served for many years as Editor—Europe, presiding over a strong and steady increase in manuscript flow and recognition. He was recently succeeded by Bernard Testa who has tackled an unexpected surge of submitted papers with sound judgment and superior

organization. In Japan, Yuichi Sugiyama has also experienced rapidly increasing paper submissions, and he has worked out an excellent and efficient editorial process in his region. Each of the regional editors acts independently and sets the policy with regard to editorial decisions. My sincere gratitude is owed to these three colleagues, who were instrumental in assuring the international reputation of *Pharmaceutical Research*.

Acknowledging the contributions of the associate editors last by no means implies a lesser share of the burden. In contrast, the associate editors served their specialty areas, having been selected in consultation with their AAPS section leadership, with only minimal or no financial support at all, thereby, putting a personal stamp on the quality and flavor of the articles appearing in *Pharmaceutical Research*. Indeed, all AAPS section specialties are represented in the journal by a steady flow of articles, even in areas where other AAPS journals exist (APQ) or competing journals serve differential needs. An exceedingly important development has been the surge of biotechnology papers, now approaching 20% of all published papers. Because most BIOTEC papers overlap with all other section specialties, the distinction between the sections has become blurred, stimulating a rethinking of where the pharmaceutical sciences will go. For their personal efforts, I can speak on behalf of the AAPS by congratulating each of the associate editors for their dedicated work. It has been my privilege to have their support and guidance. The associate editors were:

PDD: Gordon Amidon, David Fleisher, Gordon Flynn, Vincent H. L. Lee (now Editor-in-Chief)  
PPDM: Robert J. Wills, Bobbe L. Ferraiolo  
PT: Morgan Beatty, Larry L. Augsburg  
APQ: James T. Stewart  
BIOTEC: Bobbe L. Ferraiolo, Randy Mrsny  
CS: Joachim Grevel  
MNPC: Wallace J. Murray, Rao S. Rapaka  
EMMS: Francis B. Palumbo

The 1994 editorial board will continue to appear in the impressum for several months to reflect their editorial responsibility for papers published in 1995.

In the many years of editing *Pharmaceutical Research*, I have truly understood that it is an author's privilege, not a right, to publish in a peer-reviewed journal, because of the enormous effort by numerous individuals to maintain a valuable publication forum. I can only wish for the continued strong commitment by the AAPS and all pharmaceutical scientists to elevate *Pharmaceutical Research* as a journal of broad scope with equal ranking to the leading journals in other major scientific disciplines.

Wolfgang Sadée  
San Francisco, California