

## Editorial

As mentioned in the Publishers' Announcement this issue of *Carbohydrate Polymers* introduces two significant changes. First of all, the departure of John Blanshard from the editorial team and the arrival of Paul Sandford. John was one of the founder editors of the journal and played the major role in setting up the editorial board and defining the scope of the journal. He is giving up the editorship to be able to devote more of his time to other matters. We would like to join the publishers' in paying tribute to all the work that he has put in over the past seven years. He will continue to have a significant input into the journal as he will remain on the editorial board. The presence of Paul Sandford will not only give us a representation at the editorial level in the US but also expand the areas of scientific expertise covered by the editors.

The second change is in the journal cover. This is not merely cosmetic but will herald the arrival of a number of new features which will be introduced in subsequent issues. These will be:

- (i) an increase in the number of review papers;
- (ii) a news and views section which will include features such as conference reports, the work of major research centres and industrial developments;
- (iii) a diary of forthcoming meetings.

To accommodate these new features and still allow us to achieve rapid publication of original research papers, the number of issues of the journal will be increased from six to eight in 1988. Can we emphasize that original research papers will remain the backbone of the journal and it is intended that the new editorial structure will allow us to handle these more rapidly and efficiently. Reviews and research papers should be sent to any of the three editors. Some indication of the areas of expertise that we possess are given in the brief profiles overleaf. John Kennedy will be coordinating the news and views section, and items on forthcoming meetings can be sent directly to the publishers.

The editors intend that the journal will continue to provide a service to innovation in the field of industrially important polysaccharides.

**J. F. Kennedy**  
**J. R. Mitchell**  
**P. A. Sandford**

## EDITORS' PROFILES

**J. F. Kennedy**

John F. Kennedy is Director of the Research Laboratory for the Chemistry of Bioactive Carbohydrates and Proteins, Department of Chemistry, University of Birmingham, England, and Professor of Applied Chemistry, North East Wales Institute, Wales. Originally graduating in standard university chemistry, he rapidly moved into the scene of macromolecular carbohydrate chemistry and biology in association with the Medical Research Council, investigating proteoglycans for his PhD and glycoprotein hormones in his research fellowship. Thereafter, he built up his current research group, which has as its major interests: the chemistry and biochemistry of carbohydrates at both the monomer and polymer levels; the chemistry and biochemistry of carbohydrate-containing macromolecules; the chemistry and biochemistry of carbohydrate-directed enzymes; analytical techniques for the detection and quantitation of carbohydrates and proteins; biotechnological applications of carbohydrates, proteins and enzymes, and he has now been known internationally for a number of years as an active researcher and consultant in these areas.

A recipient of the Meldola Medal, the Tate and Lyle Carbohydrate Award, and the publisher of over 300 research articles, John F. Kennedy has edited many books in carbohydrate and polymer chemistry and is author of *Proteoglycans — Biological and Chemical Aspects in Human Life*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, and *Bioactive Carbohydrates*, Ellis Horwood, Chichester. He is a major leader of the biennial Cellucon Conferences on wood and cellulose chemistry and technology. Current interests and expertise in polysaccharides include industrial aspects of cellulose, starch, xanthan, pectin, proteoglycans, etc.

**J. R. Mitchell**

John Mitchell is currently Reader in Food Rheology in Nottingham University's Department of Applied Biochemistry and Food Science. With J. M. V. Blanshard he founded Carbohydrate Polymers in 1981. After originally graduating in physics he became involved in food research as a result of employment with Unilever Research and the Mars group. He obtained a PhD at Nottingham for research on the rheology of polysaccharide gels and has been actively involved in research and consultancy work in this area for many years. Among his many publications he has coedited the books *Polysaccharides in Food* and *Functional Pro-*

*perties of Food Macromolecules.* His major areas of expertise in addition to rheology are food applications of carbohydrate polymers and the structure and properties of gelling polysaccharides.

### **P. A. Sandford**

For over 20 years Paul Sandford has been involved in the research and development of polysaccharides, particularly those whose properties lend themselves to commercial use. His PhD work at the University of Illinois introduced the Hakamori method of methylation showing that stereotyped biopolymers have unique and simple repeating units. He, being part and later head of the microbial polysaccharide group at USDA's Northern Regional Research Center, pioneered the commercial development of xanthan gum and other industrially useful polysaccharides. He has devised methods for establishing structure function relationships for both anionic and cationic polysaccharides. At Merck's Kelco Division, he characterized new polysaccharides such as gellan gum, welan, and rhamsan as well as new forms of xanthan gum and alginic acid. Currently, as Director of Product Development of Protan Laboratories, Inc., he is responsible for the commercialization of chitosan and chitin, nature's second most plentiful biopolymer next to cellulose. Dr Sandford has considerable experience with industrial polysaccharides and their applications.