

Letter from the editor



Steve Carney

Editor, *Drug Discovery Today*

Changes to *Drug Discovery Today* for 2006

► Dear Reader

This double issue marks the end of *Drug Discovery Today's* 10th anniversary year. As you are probably aware, the start of the year 2005 heralded several very significant changes in the journal format, most notably, the incorporation of the two sister publications, *Drug Discovery Today: TARGETS* and *Drug Discovery Today: BIOSILICO*. This merger proved very successful with our readers, as demonstrated by the significant increase (up to 20-fold) in online usage of articles from these two journals. This was of benefit not only to our readers, who clearly were not accessing this valuable information in the past, but

also to our authors, whose work is now being more broadly disseminated. We hope that *Drug Discovery Today* fulfilled its aim of providing a quality 'one-stop-shop' for review content related to the drug discovery industry. We were also very pleased to see that our impact factor continued to rise, with an impressive 72% increase over the past two years, to its recently released 2004 value of 7. This is in no small part due to the excellent quality of reviews prepared by our authors in the period in question (this is reviews published in 2002 and 2003).

As part of our general policy, we solicit the views of readers and authors by way of questionnaires throughout the year to assess whether the journal is providing the most useful information we can to the users. This year is no exception and this has now, as in the past, allowed us to modify the journal to account for changing needs and requirements.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the review content of the journal was overwhelmingly seen as the most important feature of the journal. However, people were less positive with respect to a fortnightly publication schedule and the majority view was very strongly in favour of switching to a monthly schedule. We have therefore decided to implement this suggested change in publication frequency. This, of course, means that in order to maintain the content that we provided in 2005, we will double the number of reviews per issue. In essence, we will be combining both issues for each month into a supersize volume, not unlike the one that you are reading now. The range of review sections will be maintained and the topics covered will continue to explore the most important developments in the drug discovery field. Hence, we will be maintaining our broad Keynote and Foundation articles but broadening the current *Drug Discovery Today: TARGETS* section to cover all aspects of the early 'gene to screen' part of discovery and the *Drug Discovery Today: BIOSILICO* section to cover all of 'informatics'. The remaining, general

Drug Discovery Today reviews will therefore focus on the 'post screen' part of the drug discovery pipeline. Also, in line with your feedback, we will be focusing the feature-type material on the key topics and article types most widely requested, in particular Editorials, the Biotech Focus and Business Trends articles, and the Interviews with leading industry names. We will additionally be maintaining the popular Monitor section, together with the conference diary.

As a monthly publication, however, it is unlikely that we would be sufficiently timely to provide an adequate News section. To replace this, we will be introducing our monthly electronic Editor's Choice newsletter, including carefully selected articles covering the full spectrum of pertinent drug discovery literature, chosen by recognized experts in the field. This choice will concentrate on particular themed areas and highlight the most important current papers related to that theme. In addition, the newsletter will contain relevant job and conference listings. I would value any feedback on the new format of the journal, so please do not hesitate to contact me on s.carney@elsevier.com with any comments, ideas and suggestions.

As always, we are endeavouring to provide a journal that is tailored to the precise needs of the drug discovery professional. Your assistance in providing us with feedback on the structure and content of the journal is absolutely essential in helping us to continue to evolve and refine *Drug Discovery Today* in the future.

On behalf of the *Drug Discovery Today* Editorial Team, I would like to wish everyone a very happy festive season and a prosperous 2006. I hope that you will read and enjoy *Drug Discovery Today* and that we continue to interest and stimulate you with quality articles over the coming year.

With best wishes,

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