

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Pharmaceutics is an applied science which covers the design, development and use of drug dosage forms. The application of basic scientific disciplines to the solution of problems in this area has led to many exciting and encouraging developments. In recent years, the application of physical and chemical principles has led to improved techniques for the manufacture of dosage forms, for the preparation of devices to deliver dosage, and to the development of pro-drugs as novel delivery systems. Analytical procedures have been designed to detect sub-nanogram quantities of drugs and their metabolites in body fluids, and pharmacokinetic models have been evolved which permit individual treatment of patients with extremely potent therapeutic agents. Major advances will continue to evolve as more scientists, from many disciplines, explore different avenues of research in pursuit of providing the patient with improved delivery systems for drugs and diagnostic agents.

This new international journal was initiated to provide scientists with a forum for the presentation and discussion of their research within the general field of pharmaceutics in its widest definition. The journal will serve as a medium for the publication of new ideas that have been developed theoretically and tested experimentally. Quality and originality are the twin criteria by which articles will be accepted for publication. It is our intention to make this *The Journal* to which scientists carrying out research in pharmaceutics will look for original ideas and to which they will present their own contributions to the advancement of knowledge.

Two types of publications will be considered; review articles covering specific topics where recent advances have shown them to be important to the development of specific areas of pharmaceutics. Apart from critically evaluating the published literature on the chosen subject, these reviews will reflect the authors' opinions as to where future research is needed and therefore should be directed.

Original research can be presented as full length papers or as short communications. It is envisaged that the latter will encourage the early publication of valid and meaningful experimental results. It is especially hoped that this new journal will provide a means of bringing together research and study, not only within the field of pharmaceutics, but also in the wider fringe areas of other pharmaceutical, physical, chemical and clinical sciences, in so far as they relate to the drug dosage form, its design, development and use.

Details relating to the preparation and processing of submitted manuscripts are given in this first issue of the journal. Strict adherence to these requirements is essential if publication is to be rapid. We well recognize the need for the early dissemination of new information; each paper will be rigidly scrutinized by two referees who are experts in the respective field of study and prompt publication will follow acceptance of papers.

P.F. D'ARCY
ELI SHEFTER
Managing Editors