

EDITORIAL

The seventies have been a time of many changes in the area of pharmaceutics. The period has witnessed the growth of pharmacokinetics from a laboratory infant to a practical and established clinical tool. Newer analytical techniques have made it possible to detect drugs and their metabolites in biological tissues and fluids at concentrations in the parts per trillion. The understanding of the processes involved in drug absorption, distribution and elimination in man and animals has increased markedly because of these scientific advances.

The future of pharmaceutical research appears to be moving into newer frontiers based on developments of the past decade. Specific site delivery of drugs will be a major goal. Liposomes, implantable devices, micro-encapsulated drugs, osmotic pumps and pro-drugs will evolve into practical means of drug delivery in the coming years. Creativity in the design and formulation of site-targeted medicaments is gaining increasing interest and importance.

There are still many exciting problems that have been with us for a long time, and that are in need of further study. Through developments in peripheral scientific disciplines newer approaches can be used to provide answers to some of the questions that arise in the development, formulation, packaging and quality control of pharmaceuticals.

A great demand exists amongst pharmaceutical scientists to keep abreast of the newer developments as they occur. The principal means is through original research reports on a variety of relevant subjects, such as is published in the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*. For established fields, the *review article* is invaluable in that it summarizes the extent of current knowledge and also pin-points those areas where there is a need of further study. These reviews can also explore newer avenues through which fruitful results can be derived. For this reason the Editors, while still emphasizing the importance of original research contributions, invite concise and up-to-date reviews on topics which would be relevant to pharmaceutics research.

Because of the state of flux in current scientific thought and the rapid changes which result, all reviews accepted will be given publication priority.