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Nucleosides, Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

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Preface

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Preface

Each year several thousand papers are published that deal with research relating to nucleosides and nucleotides. The central role occupied by nucleic acids and their component parts in living systems clearly is the reason for such a large quantity of research in the area. While it would be both exciting and illuminating to keep abreast of all the developments on nucleic acids and their components, most of us consider it a challenge to stay current in a specific subsection of this broad field. Various methods, including the utilization of computerized chemical information and literature scanning aids such as Current Contents® provide valuable assistance in that task. Most scientists, however, have a certain number of journals that they examine directly, the journals with the greatest number of articles of high interest to them. Among these are generally included one or more specialty journals relating to the scientist's areas of research. One purpose of a specialty journal might be considered to be to provide a focal point for research contributions in a reasonably well defined area of science. Granting this point, then such a journal should provide its primary readers with the types of information they will find most useful and timely. It should also make a definitive and lasting contribution to scientific knowledge. It can be argued that the scientific community needs no new journals, that enough are in existence already to handle the research published each year. While I agree with adopting a conservative stance in this regard, the idea that a new journal just by being such is not worthwhile makes little sense. Science, as well as the publication of scientific information, is in a constant state of evolution. New ideas must be tried, always with the goal of increasing the benefits to the research community. If a new journal achieves this goal, then it is a worthwhile enterprise.

Nucleosides & Nucleotides, a new journal whose first issue you are reading, has been designed to publish articles dealing with the chemistry and biology of nucleosides. More specifically, a major, though not exclusive, focus will be on new compounds, including their synthesis and examinations of their biologic activities. The Regional Editors and the Editorial Advisory Board have been

selected because they have expertise in areas representative of the type of research we hope will be published in this journal. All manuscripts received will be fully refereed to determine their acceptability. Within this framework of careful review, we hope to be able to achieve rapid publication. The Regional Editors will be handling the review process in their areas of the world to facilitate the achievement of this goal. Obviously, to obtain the optimum turnaround time for acceptable manuscripts, we will need a certain minimum number of issues per year. We hope it does not take long to reach that number.

Correspondence and conversations with members of the Editorial Advisory Board as well as other scientists have resulted in many useful suggestions which have been implemented and others which will be developed later. My personal preference, echoed by many other researchers, is that since an author must have experimental details even when sending in a communication, this data should be included in all appropriate manuscripts. With this proviso, we hope to make contributions to Nucleosides & Nucleotides as useful as possible to other members of the research community.

A feature which should be of considerable value to readers is review articles. Two such articles are included in this first issue, although they will not necessarily be a regular inclusion in each issue. Reviews need not be all-inclusive, but should present a balanced picture in a concise and critical fashion. Their purpose will be to inform readers as well as to stimulate new research ideas.

The cover design was developed by chemist-artist Prof. Donald E. Bergstrom of the University of North Dakota. The instructions to authors have been organized in an attempt to incorporate the maximum amount of information per page while maintaining readability, and the size of the journal was also selected with this in mind. Suggestions or comments on any aspect of the journal are encouraged.

J.A.S.