SPS Editorial

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New York, Aachen

The Journal is the official publication of the Skin Pharmacology Society whose major goal is to provide a forum for the presentation of the latest scientific developments in skin pharmacology. The extension of this new knowledge to better treatment modalities for patients with dermatologic diseases is a second major goal.

Now in its ninth volume, the Journal has been successful in many ways, but despite these accomplishments a number of concerns have emerged about the status of the Society in recent years and in turn that of the journal. This resulted in a meeting of a group of the Society's founding members, representatives of Karger, the Journal's publisher, and the editor during the Society's annual meeting in Vienna in November 1995. A careful review of the Journal's publishing history shows that the volume of manuscripts has been reasonably large but that the majority of the submitted work is not coming from members of the Society. Furthermore, the subscriber base of the Journal has more nonmembers than members. These observations are indicative of a basic problem for the Society which is that most of the members have neither been submitting their work for presentation at our meetings nor to the Journal. The net result has been a weakening of the Journal's impact.

As a result of this meeting and of discussions by the Board at its annual meeting, it was decided to appoint a new leadership of the Society. Dr. David Bickers, Professor and Chairman of the Dermatology Department at Columbia University in New York, will be Chairman and Dr. Lutz Hegemann of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Vienna will be Secretary-Treasurer.

The Society is at a difficult period in its history, and in order to assure the future it is essential that we recapture the enthusiastic support of the members and convince them of the need for them to participate in the activities of the Society. As a first step toward defining and proposing solutions to our problems, a questionnaire has been prepared and it will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal. The results will then be published in the Journal and will be used by the Society's leadership in planning for the future.

We believe that 1996 will be a critical year for the Society. The Journal is committed to speeding up its review process. In addition, we will publish a limited number of high-impact papers as designated by the reviewers who will have discretion in the regard. Such papers will be published in the next available issue of the Journal.

Our goal is to rejuvenate the Society. We are committed to doing all we can to assure a successful future for the Society and the Journal.

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