The Merger of Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Biology of the Neonate

J.V.		Aranda
J.P.		Relier

Montreal/Paris

The exponential increase of published scientific data continues to be a boon and a curse for the reader. A blessing because the ever expanding knowledge base persists to unravel endless scientific questions and curiosities and demystifies untold medical mysteries. A curse because the average reader is finding less and less time to read all the interesting papers required for continuing education vital to sound medical practice and scientific research. With the ongoing explosion of the 'information highway', it is often discouraging for the reader to see a growing stack of assorted journals waiting to be read.

Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics (DPT) has limited this burden somewhat. About a decade ago, it incorporated the journal Pediatric Pharmacology published then by Raven Press (New York) and continued to serve a very specialized audience of developmental pharmacologists. It also served as the official organ of the European Society of Developmental Pharmacology, The Japanese Society of Developmental Pharmacology and the Pediatric Section of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR). In the last few years, it has become apparent that the scope of this journal has become distinct from that of its sister journal – the Biology of the Neonate. Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics publishes any paper related to the pharmacology and drug therapy of the fetus, newborn and developing organism. Biology of the Neonate encompasses all papers related to the fetus and newborn. In the last 5 years, about 92.5% of papers published in DPT are within the scope of Biology of the Neonate. Thus, it was considered prudent to merge the two journals together under the title Biology of the Neonate – incorporating Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

We foresee that the merger will benefit and will enrich the two sets of audience. Biology of the Neonate will increase the number of pages per issue to accommodate the papers from Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics (DPT). Traditional readers of Biology of the Neonate will find more papers on drugs and pharmacology related to the fetus and newborn. Similarly, the usual audience of DPT will find more papers on the biology of the fetus, newborn and growing organism that could be useful for studies in pharmacology and therapeutics in this age group. Whilst there is one editorial board, papers will be peer-reviewed by two sets of experts. Authors are instructed to indicate whether their manuscript should be evaluated by the pharmacology panel or by the biology experts. The expanding information highway challenges us to search for innovative modes to allow easier access to information. As the communications technology advances, journals must evolve to provide better service to its readership.