Editorial

It has been a great pleasure and privilege for me to have been associated with this journal during the past 30 years as Editor for the US, Canada, and South America. Unprecedented growth and development in the field of pharmacology have occurred during this period. A few of these amazing advances include: introduction of successful new classes of drugs to treat almost every major disease; discovery and characterization of many new receptors for drugs and intracellular signaling pathways by which drugs produce their metabolic effects within cells; a whole new dimension of understanding of drug action by virtue of the advent of molecular biology and application of molecular techniques. My own special interests in drug metabolism, pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics have benefited enormously from these developments. For example, these advances enabled understanding of the pathways of drug biotransformation based on knowledge of participation of individual cytochrome P-450 isozymes at the level of each reaction. This, in turn, led to much greater specificity and precision in the field. The special issue of *Pharmacology* on pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics released September 2000 described many examples of valuable new knowledge derived from the application of molecular techniques to address issues of individual differences in response to therapeutic agents.

All these scientific advances have been and are being directly reflected in this journal. Publication of high-quality

pharmacological research in this journal has in itself had a significant impact and enhanced interdisciplinary concepts. During the past year, *Pharmacology* has also published several short, critical reviews to cover some of these new developments. Furthermore, over the years, the standards for manuscript acceptance have risen. It is a pleasure to express my deep gratitude to the many individuals responsible for the numerous improvements that have taken place in the journal: the publisher, the other editors over the past 30 years, including the founders, R. Domenjoz, B.B. Brodie, K. Lederis, and K.-F. Sewing, as well as the present outstanding editors, Professors J. Donnerer and T. Watanabe, and, of course, the distinguished editorial board.

I have faith in a great future for the field of pharmacology and in the ability of my successors, Professors Donnerer and Watanabe, and also Professor Melvin Billingsley, who succeeds me as editor for the US, Canada and South America, to maintain and enhance the excellence and high quality of this journal in the years ahead. For that reason, I pass along the torch of the editorship to Professor Billingsley with enthusiasm and high hopes.

Elliot S. Vesell, MD, ScD
Editor, US, Canada, and South America
from 1970 to 2000