Editorial

The April issue of Drug Metabolism and Disposition contained a thought-provoking article by Stevens et al. entitled “The changing environment of graduate and postdoctoral training in drug metabolism: Viewpoints from academia, industry, and government”. This article represents a report of a symposium sponsored by the Drug Metabolism Division of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at Experimental Biology 2002. Major themes are an assessment of the perceived shortage in the supply of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows qualified for research positions in drug metabolism, identification of factors that have contributed to the shortfall, and actions that could alleviate the problem. This is an issue that is currently being proposed as a topic for additional workshops at major international drug metabolism meetings in the next year or two. Although the authors raise as many questions as they answer, there is consensus on the value of partnerships between academia and industry for expanding both the aptitude and supply of students and postdoctoral fellows. Readers of Drug Metabolism and Disposition undoubtedly have many other valuable comments and suggestions and are encouraged to write Letters to the Editor addressing this topic.

James R. Halpert
Editor