After six years of outstanding leadership by Dr. Raymond F. Novak, the editorship of Drug Metabolism and Disposition has changed hands. I am honored to have assumed this position effective January 1, 2000. To ensure a smooth transition, Drs. Arleen B. Rifkind, Russell A. Prough, Stephen P. Spielberg, and Steven A. Wrighton have agreed to continue to serve as Associate Editors. We will also be joined by two new Associate Editors, Dr. Laurence S. Kaminsky from the New York State Department of Health, and Dr. Kenneth E. Thummel from the University of Washington. They will bring additional expertise in pharmacogenomics, toxicology, and pharmacokinetics. Concomitant with the change in editorship, the editorial office for Drug Metabolism and Disposition will be centralized at ASPET in Bethesda. Rich Dodenhoff, Journals Director of ASPET, and June Dreskin, Managing Editor of ASPET, will coordinate and facilitate the manuscript handling process. Manuscripts will be submitted to Bethesda, and all communication will be handled by the central ASPET office. This arrangement should enhance manuscript processing, thus decreasing turnaround times and freeing up the editors to focus on journal content. The ASPET staff are also in the process of evaluating online manuscript submission and tracking systems; such a system is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Novak, his editorial assistant Elizabeth Sherman, the Associate Editors, Editorial Board members, and many ad hoc reviewers, Drug Metabolism and Disposition has risen substantially in the rankings of pharmacology journals. I am pledged to continue the efforts to improve the quality of the journal and the quality and timeliness of the review process. A number of new Editorial Board members have been added, and more additions are forthcoming to best serve the changing needs of authors.

An exciting new development is the creation of a Scientific Advisory Board, consisting of six former recipients of ASPET’s Bernard B. Brodie Award in Drug Metabolism: M. W. Anders, Minor J. Coon, Ronald W. Estabrook, Frederick P. Guengerich, Anthony Y. Lu, and Paul R. Ortiz de Montellano. These distinguished scientists will share their wisdom and insight with the Editor in recommending new directions and initiatives for the journal. A major goal of the entire editorial team is to expand Drug Metabolism and Disposition by attracting more novel and high-impact articles. We are especially interested in publishing “mini-reviews” on contemporary topics and original articles that link drug metabolism and disposition to the biological effects of drugs and chemicals. Areas that we would like to expand include pharmacogenomics, the role of drug metabolism in drug discovery and design, toxicology, and the development of new in vitro and in vivo methodologies.

Our goal is for Drug Metabolism and Disposition to be the premier international journal in its field, serving academia, industry, and government agencies. We look forward to working with authors, reviewers, and readers, and we welcome comments and suggestions on how to continually improve the journal.

James R. Halpert
Editor