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Editorial

Superimposed upon recent technological advancements, biomedical research, particularly in the area of cellular and molecular biology, has become highly specialized. This trend is witnessed by the flood of new journals that cater to a selected readership. As a result, many existing journals with wide-ranging scientific coverage now suffer from a decline in subscription and citation.

Our editorial board faces the same dilemma in launching the *Journal of Biomedical Science:* to publish a general or specialized journal. We decided at the end in favor of the former, because we envisage that it will be an international journal devoted to the promotion of basic medical science with significant impact on human welfare. One personal experience comes into my mind, and this concerns the rather slow process of the recognition of α-bungarotoxin as a powerful tool in the study of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. Our first description of this toxin was published in a pharmacology journal in 1963 [1], after being rejected by a leading physiology journal. However, it only drew recognition 7 years later when our work on α-bungarotoxin was confirmed in a wide-coverage journal [2].

Our editorial board also considers that it is vitally important for basic and clinical biomedical scientists to maintain a dialogue. One area that has flourished this kind of collaboration in Taiwan is the research on hepatitis. The prevalence of viral hepatitis in this part of the world provides the impetus and opportunity for concerted basic and clinical research on this disease. The resultant publications from Taiwan and other parts of Asia have contributed significantly towards our understanding of the underlying cause and subsequent effective prevention of viral hepatitis.

One often overlooked fact in modern biomedical science is that biological processes exist as a continuum that extends from molecular and cellular events to the organ system and overall behavior. Thus, it is crucial that communication be maintained among these scientists. This linkage can best be provided by a biomedical journal with broad coverage. It is under these philosophical considerations that the *Journal of Biomedical Science* was designed. Thus, the Journal encourages interdisciplinary dialogue between the basic and clinical sciences, as well as the fundamental and molecular aspects of medicine. Emphases are also placed on the basic studies concerning pathogenesis and treatment of diseases. Managed by a dedicated editorial board comprising basic and clinical scientists based in Taipei and Bethesda, the Journal aims at providing a forum for intercommunications between experts from different medical disciplines and between Asia and the international scientific community.

I would like to express my appreciation to the National Science Council, Taiwan, Republic of China, for sponsoring our Journal. In particular, I wish to acknowledge my associate editors and the members of the international editorial board for their efforts to make this Journal a reality. I would also thank Dr. T. Karger and his staff at S. Karger AG for their unfailing enthusiasm in this project. Last, but not least, my sincere gratitude goes to those authors who supported us with their manuscripts that appear in the first issue of *Journal of Biomedical Science.*

References

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