

EDITORIAL

There are now approximately 80 000 scientific journals published world-wide. Of these, around 9000 are currently included in *Biological Abstracts*. In 1992 there were nearly 7000 articles on some aspect of chromosome biology widely scattered among no fewer than 627 different journals, with room for less than 10% of them in journals that are known specifically to welcome papers on chromosomes or cytogenetics: truly an incredible scenario and scarcely a happy one for chromosome researchers trying to keep abreast of their field in times of expanding science and contracting libraries.

We considered that these data alone justified the introduction of a fresh journal that was manifestly for chromosomologists, a journal that offered quick, no-fuss communication at the highest possible standard and that was widely affordable. Our initial plan met with widespread enthusiasm and support, as was evident from the eagerness of so many active chromosomologists to serve on our editorial advisory board. Accordingly, we launched *Chromosome Research* with a commitment to modern and professional scientific publishing coupled to an open system of peer review and an author-friendly editorial policy.

The scope of *Chromosome Research* is wide, ranging from microbes to humans and higher plants. Basically, if your science is about chromosomes or any of the front line technologies that feature in chromosome research, then we want to publish it. Three matters are specially noteworthy. First, we are committed to uncompromising excellence in the reproduction of micrographs. Second, we think speed is important and we are working to a strict schedule that achieves publication within less than 3 months of receipt of a manuscript, subject only to additional time for revision. It is in the interests of speed that we have decided to commit ourselves, right from the outset, to the publication of an issue every 2 months. Third, we are acutely cost conscious in relation to our subscribers and we will constantly be on the lookout for ways of making our journal more and more accessible to readers in all parts of the world.

Most of all, we want *Chromosome Research* to become integral with your research programme, as much a part of your toolkit as the objectives on your microscope, so that we can interact closely with you in the interests of success and progress in your laboratory.

Herbert Macgregor