

Evolution in practice

In the seven years since Derek Farr's final editorial¹ the evolution of biomedical science has reflected the constantly changing and ever-expanding history on which he commented, and the *British Journal of Biomedical Science* (BJBS) continues to report on the scene. Since it was first published in 1913, both journal and profession have witnessed the full spectrum of change brought with the passing years of the 20th century. The five titles, three page sizes and six cover designs referred to by Derek Farr in 1995 have now become five titles, four page sizes and eight cover designs, with the introduction of the journal's new A4 size and its revamped cover design. The changes apparent in the first issue of Volume 59, including the updated page design, are not just skin deep.

Less apparent to readers will be the change in publisher. At the beginning of 2002, responsibility for publishing BJBS passed from the Royal Society of Medicine Press to Step Publishing, publisher of *Biomedical Scientist* and also *Pathology in Practice*. The journal's association with RSM Press goes back a decade, prior to which it was published by Blackwell. Over the past 10 years, RSM Press has provided considerable support to the editor and editorial team, and it would be remiss not to record my thanks to Delia Siedle and Lisa Deakin for all they have done to ensure the continued success of the journal.

The impact of electronic communication has had considerable effect on the day-to-day business of the journal² such that most is now done via this medium. Over the past 12 months the move towards 'e-editing' has kept pace with many other forms of 'e-activity', and the move to the new publisher has introduced the authors of papers in this first issue of 2002 to the 'pdf file' as an alternative means of receiving their proofs for checking. Experience so far indicates that 'pdf' will become a common 'e-term' in the vocabulary of both editor and author alike.

As a mirror to the constantly changing and evolving practise of biomedical science, this issue would appear to be particularly reflective. Articles on restriction display PCR and proteomics report on work at the cutting edge of biomedical science, while those on the measurement of urine sialic acid, the detection of current toxoplasma infection, and the methods available to detect MRSA, demonstrate the journal's continuing role in informing best practice. The balance would appear to auger well for the future of BJBS. □

References

- 1 Farr AD. Expansion of the *British Journal of Biomedical Science*. *Br J Biomed Sci* 1995; 52: 1.
- 2 Nation BR. Challengingtimes.online *Br J Biomed Sci* 2000; 57: 1.