

## Notice to Contributors

Editors of scientific journals are increasingly faced with problems resulting from the development of sciences, which is reflected in the growing number of scientific periodicals, often with similar scopes, and an equally increasing number of manuscripts submitted for publication.

Since scientific journals are destined to give relevant information to their readers and not to overburden them with a flow of data they are unable to digest, the editors are obliged to be more and more selective in accepting papers, which implies that even well-written containing interesting data may be rejected.

Another problem is formed by the ever rising printing costs, which may lead to exorbitant subscription rates, if no adequate measures are taken to limit the journal's size. Although this is specifically a publisher's problem, the editor is concerned as well.

The editors of *Vox Sanguinis* have given serious thought to these matters and maybe a new editorial structure will result from it in the near future. For the time being we would like to stress which topics should be covered by the journal and emphasize that priority will be given to new facts.

Since *Vox Sanguinis* is the scientific journal of the International Society of Blood Transfusion, it should logically be devoted to all aspects of blood transfusion and immunohaematology. In the past few decades the development of blood grouping has been one of the prominent features of blood transfusion. The knowledge acquired in this field has led to the introduction of new disciplines. As a result of the extension of immunohaematology to immunopathology the number of immunological techniques for the diagnosis of various disorders, performed in institutes that are involved in blood transfusion and immunohaematology, is steadily growing; many of the immunological techniques applied in these institutes concern the area of immunopathology. We think therefore that, in addition to its

traditional scope, the journal should also reflect the application of immunological techniques in clinical immunology.

In accordance with this concept the topics of interest to the journal can be divided into four main sections:

*I. Blood Transfusion and Immuno-haematology*

Clinical use of blood cell and protein components  
 Transmissible disease (a.o. serum hepatitis)  
 Blood clotting  
 Iso-immunization by blood transfusion or pregnancy  
 Organization and automation in blood transfusion.

*II. Production of human Blood Components*

Purification and preservation of cellular elements of the blood  
 Purification and preservation of blood protein components  
 Preparation and standardization of immune reagents.

*III. Genetic Markers of Human Blood Cell and Protein Components*

Immunogenetics (blood cells and serum groups)  
 Biochemical genetics (enzyme polymorphism, etc.).

*IV. Immunopathology*

Immunodiagnosis (including autoimmune diseases of the blood)  
 Experimental and clinical immunopathology.

In order to keep a good equilibrium between the various sections, the present number of papers on blood groups should be reduced, and papers not directly relevant to *human* blood groups should not be submitted at all. There are numerous other journals specialized in this field.

The distinction between original papers and brief communications, which was initiated to accelerate the publication of new and/or important data in a condensed form, will be abolished, as it appeared to be impossible to realize this purpose. However, it has been agreed with the publisher that all effects will be made to publish accepted papers within the shortest possible term.

Lengthy papers should be avoided, as stated in the instruction to authors. General reviews on current topics within the journal's scope, as outlined above, will be welcome as usual.

J. J. VAN LOGHEM, *Amsterdam*