Fifty years of publication

Next year will be the Jubilee anniversary of the first publication of the Association of Clinical Pathologists. The Bulletin of the Association was first published in 1945. It was renamed the *Journal of Clinical Pathology* two years later, when it was launched as an international journal in collaboration with the BMJ publishing group.

Since then the Journal has been faithful to the precepts that began with the Association, and has developed them. One principle has been that there was a commonality among pathologists that was worth encouraging. In the early days this was a truism as all pathologists did similar jobs, but nowadays it is no longer quite so obvious. The overlap among clinical pathology subjects is reflected in the papers published in the Journal over the past 50 years. Many are on subjects that are hard to classify simply as haematology, microbiology, histopathology, etc., because they address all of them. We have carried papers on the histological changes in patients with hypercalcaemia caused by myeloma, on the infective and biochemical complications in patients with widespread lymphoma, and more recently on the ways that certain high profile gastric micro-organisms can influence all of the specialties in pathology.

Another very important principle has been education. The Journal has commissioned review articles, leaders, guideline papers, and other material important for trainees and continuing medical education. We will continue to publish the ACP Broadsheets as leaders in the Journal and develop our potential for CME.

Since the beginning of the Journal there have been only five editors: Gordon Signy,

Humphrey Kaye, Gerard Slavin, John Lilleyman, and myself. Each of my predecessors has demonstrably taken the Journal forward in his terms of office. The plans for next year and beyond will, I hope, continue this.

Early in 1995 an important new feature will be the publication of the *Clinical Molecular Pathology* edition of the JCP, with John Crocker and David Burnett as editors. The editorial board of the CMP edition will comprise leading pathologists working in the field of molecular pathology from Europe, the USA, Australia, and elsewhere. The edition will be sent initially to all subscribers to the Journal and subsequently to those who wish to subscribe to it. Libraries will receive copies as part of their subscription charge. In the months before the edition's launch the Journal will carry leaders on molecular pathology subjects, and we are very grateful for James McGee's help in commissioning them. [Papers on clinical molecular pathology topics will of course be published in the JCP if the authors prefer. The time to publication in the CMP edition will usually be less.]

For the Jubilee year, the front cover of the Journal will be in full colour, reflecting the increase in the number and quality of colour reproductions over the past five years. The cover will revert to our flagship blue in 1996, in a design that will make the Journal instantly recognisable on bookshelves as the JCP.

The coming years will be very exciting for us all. At the Journal we will continue to try to reflect, encourage, and perhaps initiate some of the changes that are happening in pathology. I hope that the next 50 years will be as worthwhile and stimulating as the past.

DGL