Solid resolve

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Bioimaging. Editors T. M. Jovin and I. T. Young. *Institute of Physics/American Institute of Physics. 4/yr. USA, Canada and Mexico $236 (institutional), $123 (personal); elsewhere £115 (institutional), £52.50 (personal).*

THE field of imaging science has been very productive over the past decade, both in the development of imaging methods and in the analysis of associated images. But it is often the case that the solution to a particular problem is seen in terms of only one of these aspects; there is little crossover between the two. Also, interest has tended to concentrate on what I would refer to as 'macro' imaging, which emphasizes techniques such as computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging in humans and other animals. By comparison, 'micro' imaging, which deals with microscopic and cellular techniques, is underrepresented, a situation that needs to be rectified given the continuing rapid growth in molecular science.

The publication of *Bioimaging* is to be welcomed because it focuses primarily on these two interlinked areas of microscopic imaging, in its broadest sense, and on the associated image analysis. In my view, the journal should concentrate on this important niche and not be tempted to broaden its remit as it did in one of the earlier issues: a paper on the registration of human magnetic resonance imaging and histology images sat uneasily among the others. Each issue contains about six full papers; these tend to describe original work, although some of the earlier ones have been more in the nature of reviews, much as one would expect in a young journal.

Publication time seems to be rapid, although a brief survey of the two most recent issues reveals that of the ten papers, half are from associate editors or the institutions in which they work. It is not clear to me how the journal will establish a cohesive editorial policy in the long run without an editorial board; for now, there are two editors and 46 associates.

The format is excellent and the overall quality of production is good, with colour illustrations, where appropriate, throughout. Some of the half-tone illustrations are poorer, though not so bad as to be unacceptable. I suspect that the fault lies with the originals, but, for a journal devoted to imaging, this problem needs to be addressed.

It is often tempting to cry "not another journal!" when a new publication appears. Not so for *Bioimaging*: it has the potential to fulfil a valuable role in providing a forum for specific novel techniques and applications of 'microimaging' that support research in cell biology and medicine. □

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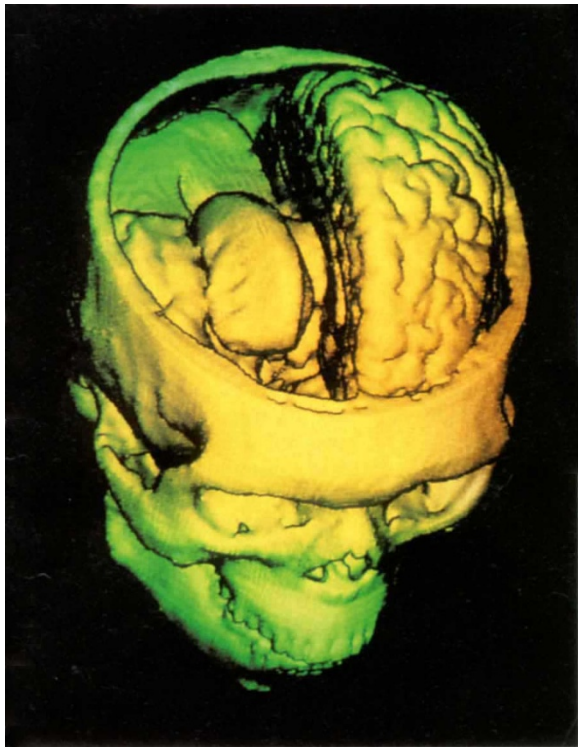

False-colour three-dimensional computer tomography image of the human brain within the skull, showing the right cerebral hemisphere and, on the left, the underlying structures of the limbic system and ventricles. Picture credit: Science Photo Library.

On target

John Woodley

Journal of Drug Targeting. Editors-in-chief A. T. Florence and V. H. L. Lee. *Gordon and Breach. 4/vol. ECU572, $687 (institutional); ECU135, $162 (personal).*

DRUG targeting can be traced back to the father of chemotherapy, Paul Ehrlich, who at the end of the nineteenth century was envisaging "substances which possess a high affinity and high lethal potential in relation to the parasite, but a lower toxicity in relation to the body". The emphasis today is on active targeting: the ability, by chemical or biological means, to direct chemotherapeutic agents to specific sites in the body. As a branch of the pharmaceutical sciences, drug targeting has mushroomed in the past 20 years. A major stimulus was the advent of monoclonal antibodies in the 1970s, which promised highly specific targeting to cells, particularly cancerous ones. The 'magic bullet' was becoming a reality. Although the euphoric promise of monoclonal antibodies has failed to materialize, there is now a range of credible systems being investigated for drug targeting, including liposomes, micro- and nano-particles and synthetic polymers, as well as antibodies and antibody fragments. Several of these are being examined in clinical trials, and all of them feature in this new journal.

The appearance of *Journal of Drug Targeting* is therefore timely and welcome as the area of study comes to maturity. It has an excellent format and gets top marks for readability and quality of papers. The submission dates indicate that the editors are achieving fast acceptance times, much to their credit. The editors rightly stress the multidisciplinary approach of drug targeting and delivery. Imaginative research in pharmaceutical sciences will never emanate from the narrow confines of conservative disciplines. The first few issues achieve this multidisciplinary goal, with an encouraging mix of papers from both academic and industrial sectors worldwide.

It is probably inevitable that the first few issues of a new journal are slightly less selective than a well established one. I hope that the editors can keep themselves clearly targeted and limit the journal mainly to papers justified by its title (albeit broadly interpreted). Some early papers are marginal to the journal's objectives and would be better suited to traditional pharmaceutical journals or other specialized journals such as *Journal of Controlled Release*. But overall the new periodical is excellent, covering exciting developments. It deserves to succeed. □

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