

EDITORIAL

The fiftieth anniversary of the *British Journal of Nutrition*

This issue marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first appearance of the *British Journal of Nutrition*. During that time the Journal has had eight Honorary Editors (the first, S.K. Kon, served for 19 years from 1947 to 1965, all of them at Shinfield) and it has seen a number of changes. For the first 6 years (1947–1952) the Journal included the *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society*, previously published separately, but from 1953 the Proceedings reverted to being a separate journal. All of the previous Honorary Editors still living have agreed to contribute Guest Editorials to forthcoming issues, reviewing broadly how their area of nutrition science has changed over the past 50 years, and how it might develop in the next 50 years.

This issue also marks a departure from the previous 50 years during which the Journal has been published by Cambridge University Press: the Nutrition Society has reached agreement with CAB INTERNATIONAL to publish the Society's journals in future. CAB INTERNATIONAL is a non-profit-making organization dedicated to improving human welfare worldwide through the dissemination, application and generation of scientific knowledge, and has a wide publishing base in the nutritional sciences. More information can be obtained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cabi.org/> or by contacting David Nicholson, Publishing Editor, at the address given in this issue.

You may be surprised to find the outward appearance of the Journal little changed with the change of publisher, but this does not mean that it will not change in future. It has been a policy decision to phase in a number of changes to the Journal over several years. We hope that readers will find the material contained within the covers to be at least as interesting as in the past, and that the increasing introduction of new features will add to that interest. For authors, we hope that the changes will also be noticeable. The editorial team have been working hard to improve our responses to authors and to cut down the time to publication. (The mean time from acceptance to publication has fallen from just over 12 months in 1990 to 7 months in 1996.) This will improve further with the publishing schedules we have agreed with CAB INTERNATIONAL. You will notice from the material inside the front cover that we have expanded considerably the geographical base of our Editorial Board, and have appointed Deputy Chairpersons and a Reviews Editor to help spread both the workload and the expertise of the team.

Amongst new features which are already appearing on an occasional basis, and which will be appearing during the coming year, we would mention the following. The Journal is about to start publishing review articles: a number of authoritative and challenging reviews are already in the pipeline. We intend to commission some reviews but we are also very willing to consider unsolicited reviews: if you have material which you think would make a good *BJN* review then why not discuss the idea with our Reviews Editor, David Thurnham? (Write to him at the Editorial Office.) We are also now publishing commentaries on articles of particular interest or timeliness, technical notes (one appears in this issue) and book reviews. Authors or publishers are invited to send books for review to the Editorial Office. One other new venture is a facility for the publication of Short

Communications, which will be fast-tracked through the editorial process; see Directions to Contributors in this issue for details.

During the coming year subscribers will also receive the first-ever Supplement to the *British Journal of Nutrition*. We intend this to become a regular feature, and anyone who has material which might be suited to a Supplement is welcome to discuss the idea with the Editorial Office or with the Publishers (contact David Nicholson at CAB INTERNATIONAL).

It seems appropriate to finish by restating the aims and scope of the Journal, and by inviting authors to submit to it original papers, review articles, short communications and discussion documents which you think fit this remit. The *British Journal of Nutrition* is an international, peer-reviewed journal that publishes the latest basic and applied studies in human and clinical nutrition, general nutrition, and animal nutrition. Topics covered include energy metabolism, nutrition and disease, obesity, international and public health nutrition, and nutrition and metabolism in farm, domestic and wild animals. However, this list is not exhaustive and we welcome any article which fits the general remit. The Journal does not usually publish papers concerning purely the nutrient composition of foodstuffs. The Journal guarantees that no page charges will be passed on to authors and, from January 1997 onwards, will provide a copy of the journal issue to the main author of each paper as well as 50 free offprints of the paper.

If you have already published work in the Journal or are a regular reader, we would like to thank you for your continued support. If, however, you are not familiar with the *British Journal of Nutrition* we hope you will consider submitting your work or encouraging your library to subscribe.

Keith N. Frayn
Chairman of the Editorial Board
The Nutrition Society

Ian E. Sambrook
Executive Editor
The Nutrition Society

David C. Nicholson
Publishing Editor
CAB INTERNATIONAL