

## Editorial

The last decade has witnessed substantial growth in all areas of anti-infectives. While new chemical entities have recently been described in the literature against certain molecular targets, many challenges remain in the future. Inhibition of entry into HIV-1 by fusion/entry inhibitors serves as an example of an evolving area in antiviral therapy. Conformational changes in Env protein as a result of fusion between viral CD<sub>4</sub> and host cell chemokine co-receptors represent an attractive strategy for HIV-1 inhibition that stimulated investigating clinical development of many compounds. Yet, the variable Env target will likely pose many challenges in using such inhibitors. Another example relates to the recent advances in the treatment of hepatitis C infection by combination therapy with interferon- and ribavirin and the emergence of new antiviral agents in clinical trials provides cause for optimism either for improved interferon combinations or single agents in the management of hepatitis C infections.

An interesting trend for the discovery of new antibacterial agents is based on genomics and bioinformatics approaches. A relatively large number of novel essential targets have been proposed. Genomic approaches, coupled with biochemical studies, are also useful in understanding modes of action of antibacterial agents. Related technologies, such as high-throughput screening, have clearly played a key role in identifying leads for optimization. The search for new chemical entities based on novel bacterial targets remains an important goal due to the increasing rate of bacterial resistance to all classes of antibiotics in clinical use.

Invasive antifungal infections, particularly in immunocompromised patients, are limiting our arsenal of antifungal agents. New agents are clearly needed to compliment current strategies and advances in this area. It seems that improved diagnosis of fungal infections is needed and many advances have been noted here. In addition, advances in new formulations of approved agents and delivery systems may be valuable in benefiting from pharmacokinetics data.

Twenty-two excellent review articles were published in four issues of Volume 3. These reviews span all three major areas of anti-infectives research: antivirals, antibacterials and antifungals. The emphasis of the journal is on the medicinal chemistry aspect of anti-infectives, and promising agents. We encourage submission of reviews on comparative structure activity relationship analyses, technologies in inhibiting certain targets, mechanistic studies, synthesis and biological properties of new agents and validation of new targets of potential therapeutic intervention, as well as pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationships.

An important milestone achieved this year is that the journal is now indexed in Chemical Abstracts, BIOSIS, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts. This will provide wider exposure for the scientific contributions of the review articles published in CMC-AIA. Clearly, the Editorial Advisory Board and the publishers are pleased with this milestone. Moreover, the journal is under consideration by ISI for impact factor calculation.

In August, a newsletter was sent to the Advisory Editorial Board providing them with useful updates. This newsletter is now sent monthly and is targeted to establish a feedback loop between the publisher, co-editors and the Board. Because of the valuable target of enhancing the communication and feedback between all involved, the current Advisory Board will be modified by providing a chance for new members to participate and change some members due to the evolving nature of review articles. We encourage greater participation by our Advisory Board to continue advancing the journal's objectives. We take this opportunity to thank our past Advisory Editorial Board members for their efforts and welcome the new members.

The list to credit for all these achievements is long. We thank the referees for their time and effort in reviewing the articles. The hard working and enthusiastic team of the journal, particularly Ms. Afshan Siddiq, is greatly acknowledged. We also thank Ms. Michele Markey of Wyeth Research for her support.

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