

Foreword

This is the first issue of *Current Topics in Medicinal Chemistry* (CTMC), published by Bentham Science Publishers (<http://www.bentham.org/ctmc>). This new journal adopts the format of the very popular “hot topics” issues that were formerly published in *Current Medicinal Chemistry*. Additional information about CTMC can be found on the internet at <http://www.bentham.org/ctmc>. There will be six issues of CTMC published in 2001, and then the journal will appear as a monthly thereafter. Both print and online subscriptions are available. The entire first issue of the journal can be viewed without charge by going to the homepage of the publisher and following the simple instructions listed there (<http://www.bentham.org>).



As all of us know, it is a constant challenge for practicing medicinal chemists and those in allied disciplines to stay abreast of new and important research developments. CTMC seeks to fill this void by thoroughly reviewing in each issue a single important topic by a group of experts in the field. The areas covered include new and emerging drug targets, structure-activity relationships, rational drug design, bioorganic chemistry, combinatorial chemistry, early drug evaluation, and compound diversity measurements.

This first issue addresses an anti-infective target, bacteria of the genus *Pseudomonas*. The next issue is devoted to inhibition of Factor Xa for the treatment of ischemic cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease. Future issues include “Compound Optimization in Early- and Late-Phase Drug Discovery”, “From Genes to Leads: Medicinal Chemistry in the Postgenomic Era”, and “Purinergic P2 Receptors: Medicinal Chemistry and Therapeutic Potential”. There are presently ca. 15 Guest Editors that have committed to preparing issues for CTMC, and I want to thank each of them for their efforts. If any reader wishes to suggest possible topics for the future, or volunteer as a potential Guest Editor, then please go the CTMC website and send me an email directly from there.

I wish to thank Bentham Science Publishers and Dr. Matthew Honan for the creation of this new journal. I also thank the many distinguished scientists who are members of the CTMC Editorial Advisory Board, and several of these have already made invaluable contributions. In addition, I thank Ambreen Aqil, Mahmood Alam, and their associates at the Bentham office in Pakistan for their continuing assistance and support, and Sandy McCarthy, my Editorial Assistant here in Spring House.

Finally, I believe that here has never been a more exciting time to engage in scientific research, and that medicinal and bioorganic chemistry are especially rewarding fields of study. Medicinal chemists have the opportunity to apply the “central science” of chemistry to pressing problems of human need. I wish all of my colleagues the best of success in the discovery of new therapeutic agents, whether it be through combinatorial chemistry and high throughput screening or computer assisted rational drug design.

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