

## EDITORIAL

A change in the editorship of a journal is always an appropriate moment for reflection. In the case of the **Memórias** as it progresses through its ninth decade of publication a mass of information has accumulated to substantiate such a reflection.

The **Memórias** is the oldest biomedical journal in Brazil that is still regularly published. Even in international comparisons it can be considered a veteran in its field. Founded in 1909, through the visionary ideals and dedicated effort of Oswaldo Cruz himself, its survival to the present date amidst all the economic and administrative difficulties of a developing country is an extraordinary achievement which only those thoroughly familiar with Brazilian history and culture can truly appreciate. The maintenance of high academic and editorial standards since its inception is a further testimony to the devotion of all those involved in the production of the journal throughout its history.

Since its first volume containing the "new human trypanosomiasis" of Carlos Chagas until the present time, the **Memórias** has been listed in major bibliographic indexing services. Currently it is one of the few Latin American biomedical journals to be listed in selective services such as the Science Citation Index. A perusal of its volumes show that nearly all the great figures involved with research in parasitic and infectious diseases in Brazil including the entire "School of Manguinhos" (Carlos Chagas, Lauro Travassos, Gaspar Vianna, Henrique Aragão and Adolpho Lutz to name only a few) have published within its pages.

At a time when many "institutional" research journals have sought commercial publishers and even tried to disguise their origins and when the fashion has been for journals to become increasingly specialized, the **Memórias** could be regarded as an anachronism. The journal continues to be edited and sponsored by the Oswaldo Cruz Institute and publishes on a broad range of biological and biomedical topics. It retains the same name and masthead symbol and the same format size as the first issue.

As a new editor there is always the temptation to make changes to the journal and certain changes have been made. An International Advisory Board has been appointed for an initial two year period. The procedure for reviewing manuscripts has been revised. A charge is being introduced for subscriptions and alterations have been made to the "Instructions to Authors". Other changes are planned and will be introduced in Volume 89. The editorial boards will be providing continuing advice for further improvements.

However there is no intention to alter certain aspects of the **Memórias**. The ideals which led to its creation will be followed, the traditions which have resulted in its international prestige will be maintained and its unique personality in the international scientific field will be respected. The **Memórias** will continue its twofold mission of disseminating to an international audience the results of research produced by the Oswaldo Cruz Institute as well as providing a forum for publication of papers in its field by Brazilian and foreign scientists. In closing I would like to make a call for papers to subscribers, readers and collaborators of the **Memórias** throughout the world.