

BCMD: THE FIRST YEAR

Blood Cells, Molecules, and Diseases (BCMD) has completed its first year. New journals initially operate under a "catch 22" situation. Scientists want to submit their best work to journals that publish outstanding papers; so how can a journal without a track record attract high quality work? There is no easy solution to this dilemma. I believe that *BCMD* has been able to attract good papers by offering very rapid publication over the internet as well as in printed form. We were able to publish 29 excellent scientific papers in 1995. We have declined to publish papers of lesser quality or those that we felt were not appropriate in content for our journal. The average time between acceptance of a paper and its publication has been 8 days. Author's reprints are usually available within 2-4 weeks. It is modern electronic publishing techniques and the extraordinary skill of Mrs. Jane Verenini, our editorial assistant, that has made this possible: unlike other journals, papers are prepared for publication in our office. They are disseminated over the internet each 15th and last day of each month.

During our first year approximately 1300 scientists have added their names to our listserve

and receive summaries of each paper published as the papers appear. When we began publishing *BCMD* it was necessary for those who wished to obtain the full article to log onto our server using the ftp protocol. Last August we created a web page, so that papers can now be obtained more easily using our web address (<http://www.scripps.edu/bcmd>). The Acrobat® PDF files that contain the papers are sometimes unfortunately very large, particularly when they contain color illustrations. This is likely to be a problem in transferring files by modem. Fortunately, data transmission rates are increasing at an astonishing rate. My first modem received data at the rate of 300 baud and the one that I installed most recently at 28,000 baud. What took one hour to transmit 10 years ago takes less than a minute now by telephone, and only a second over a network. Thus, file size will soon cease to be a problem.

As we begin the second year of publication of *BCMD* I thank our contributing editors, our authors, and our subscribers for making this experiment a success. Now that it is clear that *BCMD* is a going proposition, I hope that our contributing editors will continue to receive outstanding contributions from the scientific community.

BCMD Publications -- 1995

