

# The ascent of andrology

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*Journal of Andrology*. Editor A. Bartke. 6/yr. (Lippincott.) \$49 US, \$57 elsewhere (personal); \$57 US, \$66 elsewhere (institutional). *International Journal of Andrology*. Editor N.E. Skakkebaek. 6/yr. (Scriptor.) DKr. 500. *The Prostate*. Editors-in-chief A.A. Sandberg and G.P. Murphy. 6/yr. (Alan R. Liss.) \$120 US, \$136.50 Europe.

IT IS A curious fact that while the study of female reproduction has flourished during the past 20 years, giving rise to revolutionary new methods of either preventing or inducing conception, the study of male reproduction has remained in its infancy. A movement towards redress of this imbalance has gained impetus over the past few years and, in this light, the appearance of new andrological journals is to be welcomed.

The function of publications such as the *International Journal of Andrology* (IJA) and the *Journal of Andrology* (JA) should be to open up channels of communication between scientists and clinicians sharing a common interest in male reproduction. In this respect, these two journals succeed. Both of them cover similar ground, publishing clinically orientated papers on the diagnosis and treatment of male infertility, and reports dealing with the fundamental mechanisms of male reproduction in animal models.

The papers in JA are of good scientific quality and the standards of production, including micrographs, are high. Most of the material published in this journal originates from laboratories in the United States and includes abstracts of meetings of the American Society of Andrology (of which it is the official organ). Such abstracts are a useful way of assessing the direction of research in States-side laboratories without waiting for the publication of full papers, which in this journal takes around nine months.

The IJA is a European-based journal which has been in production since 1978, although the helm has recently been taken by a new editor. He inherits a healthy ship which, with a slight tightening of the editorial grip, will prove a ready match for its American counterpart.

These two journals are not the only ones covering andrology to have appeared in recent years, but they are the best. Both need to reduce publication times in order to keep abreast of developments; but, this achieved, they should make a significant contribution to the science and clinical practice of andrology.

The editors of *The Prostate* felt that the time spent in finding the relevant literature on this gland (and other male accessory sex glands) was now such a chore that the time had come to collect related papers into a

single, organ-specific publication. It appears that others agree; at first the journal appeared quarterly, but now bimonthly.

The editors are based at the Rosswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, and are closely linked with the activities of the US National Prostatic Cancer Project (NPCP). Thus it is no surprise to find that most of the contents of the first three volumes are derived from these sources. This has ensured a high level of investigative input and also a dominance of North American contributors. However, there is an increasing international character, both in the original articles and in the reporting of meetings which have included abstracts of conferences of the European Society for Urological Oncology and Endocrinology.

Because much of the material represents the activities of the NPCP, there is a good proportion of human prostate as well as rat prostate-related work: in Vol. 3, for

example, half of the papers are either clinical studies or reports using human prostatic tissue. All articles appear as original papers, but some of these are updated reports, some are parts of a major study, and some are entirely new work. This blend is an advantage, for the journal is also a useful reference source and for this alone has much value. There are no reviews and no correspondence columns.

Whether or not this journal can attract important new material away from the more established international journals remains to be seen. Also, it is doubtful if a

## The Prostate

clinician will derive much benefit from *The Prostate* for the clinical journals are now so numerous as to defy more than fast scanning. Nonetheless the journal is good value, it fills a gap in the field and the commitment to the subject shown by the editors should ensure a good future. □

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## Variations for clinicians

Hilary Pickles

*Clinical Physiology*. Editor J. Wahren. 6/yr. (Blackwell Scientific.) £67.50 UK, \$180 US, £81 elsewhere. *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism*. Editor A.M. Harper. 4/yr. (Raven.) \$89 US, \$99 elsewhere (personal); \$105 US, \$115 elsewhere (institutional). *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacology Research*. Editor A. Bertelli. 6/yr. (Bioscience Ediprint.) \$136. *Pediatric Pharmacology*. Editor S.J. Yaffe. 4/yr. (Alan R. Liss.) \$75 US, \$86 Europe. *Developmental Pharmacology and Therapeutics*. Editor J.V. Aranda. 8/yr in 2 vols. (Karger.) SwFr. 154, \$83 (personal); SwFr. 220, \$119 (institutional). *The Clinical Biochemist: Reviews*. Editors I. Farrance and M.J. Staley. 3/yr. (Australian Association of Clinical Biochemists.) A\$20.

*Clinical Physiology* (CP) is published for the Scandinavian Society of Clinical Physiology and is edited from the renowned department at the Karolinska. Although reports on animal experiments relevant to human physiology and pathophysiology are acceptable, the great majority of papers refer to human experimental research using patients or volunteers. Publication delay appears to run at about nine months, but a substantial proportion of this appears to be taken up by the refereeing process.

In all, this is an excellent journal. The quality of the papers and style of production are hard to fault, and the standard of English is impeccable; it is hard to believe that for most authors this is not their first language. It is witness to the strength of the Scandinavians in this field that they are able to fill six issues a year, averaging nine full papers each, with little help from the rest of the world. Academic departments of clinical physiology are less common outside Scandinavia, however, and it remains to be seen if the journal can attract appropriate papers (and subscriptions) from elsewhere. A journal of this quality is surer of success than most, and CP deserves to become established as an international publication of high standing.

Another impressive journal is the *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism* (JCBF). With the development of new techniques in this important area, research output had grown apace and, as explained in the opening issue, was being disseminated in a very wide range of journals. To simplify matters, a new society — the International Society of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism — was formed to go with the new journal.

Alerting workers to the existence of a new publication is always a problem, as many researchers are loyal to journals in which they have already published. The