

of this type may well find a niche as the natural home for short reports of new insights and methods that have wide relevance but which would sit uneasily as subsections of more substantial papers published elsewhere.

It is perhaps appropriate that there is now a journal devoted to the main component of paper, at least until the relentless march of electronic information rids us of the joys of holding journals in our hands. *Cellulose* sets itself a narrow scope in that it deals with reports only on cellulose and its derivatives; lignin and hemicellulose, the two materials with which cellulose is most commonly associated in nature, are specifically excluded. Production and presentation are excellent, and the quality of articles is high. There is a mix of detailed review articles and full research papers, although only 18 contributions in total were published in the first year.

Cellulose has enormous potential as a renewable raw material, and one could argue that a dedicated journal is needed to serve the community of scientists devoted to cellulose and its derivatives, as well as the many industries (pulp, paper, fabric) dependent on these materials. Whether *Cellulose* becomes such a house journal will depend on whether experts in the field would rather instead submit good-quality manuscripts to journals with a broader remit. For so specialized a field, *Cellulose* could provide a perfect vehicle for comments on articles in other journals concerned with cellulose, but evidence of such community-building is so far sadly lacking. This apart, *Cellulose* is off to a promising start. □

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## No empty vessel

Peter Clark and Tony Firth

**Endothelium: Journal of Endothelial Cell Research.** Editor-in-chief G. M. Rubanyi. Harwood Academic. 4/yr. ECU462, \$601 (companies); ECU296, \$385 (libraries); ECU99, \$129 (personal).

ALTHOUGH some might argue that a journal devoted entirely to one cell type is too narrow in scope, others may feel, given the interesting biology and wide-ranging clinical issues concerning endothelial cells, that it is surprising that a journal called *Endothelium* has only recently appeared. *Endothelium* publishes invited reviews, mini-reviews, full research papers, short communications, conference reports, technical notes and correspondence. It aims to cover all aspects of endothelial biology, including the effects of endothelium-derived

agents on other systems. The members of the editorial board, including several distinguished names, represent this broad scope.

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### Flesh and blood.

The research papers are generally concise and of good quality, although the really big stories in endothelial cell research are still more likely to be found in broader and more influential journals.

The journal adopts the standard double-column layout, and the text and diagrams are readable and clear. There is, however, still room for improvement in the quality of the reproduction in micrographs. There are no page charges, and colour illustrations can also be included for free. The publishers even go one step further by making 'negative page charges': principal authors receive credit (ECU15 or \$20) for each article, which individuals or institutions can put towards the purchase of any of the publisher's products. Here surely is a practice that should be encouraged!

The increase in endothelial research in recent years has created a niche for a new journal. *Endothelium* might fill it, at least in part. Other vascular journals, such as *Microvascular Research* and *Circulation Research*, overlap in areas of content, but *Endothelium* could provide a forum that brings together information of a variety of types, and as such would provide a focus for endothelial research. Much will depend on the ability of the journal to attract a reasonable share of high-quality papers in basic endothelial cell biology. We urge workers to consider sending their work to *Endothelium* and hope that the journal flourishes. □

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## Recipes at a glance

Andrew Griffiths

**Molecular Biotechnology.** Editor-in-chief John M. Walker. Humana. 6/yr. USA \$180, elsewhere \$200.

THIS journal is difficult to pigeonhole. Published as Part B of *Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology*, it aims to publish protocols for nucleic-acid and protein manipulation. These are sensibly presented in a step-by-step cookbook style, removing the need for users to decode tortuous prose into working instructions. They also contain useful warnings about potential pitfalls and troubleshooting suggestions. This is the sort of priceless time-saving information that one can get from a colleague down the corridor but which is rarely found in the sanitized methods that appear in most other journals.

The protocols themselves are something of a mixed bag, and arguably some are rather too trivial to merit publication. Most issues also contain one or two review articles. I particularly enjoyed the review on "Critical Assessment" of catalytic antibodies by Tawfik and colleagues in the first issue, which discusses the limitations of antibodies as enzymes, something that many authors in this field tend to gloss over.

The few original papers are definitely the journal's weakest aspect and it is not clear if the editors intend them to constitute an important section or appear as something of an afterthought.

*Molecular Biotechnology* is not a journal to which I would take out a personal subscription, although I would certainly scan it on a visit to the library. □

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## TEN out of ten

Simon Wolff

**Toxicology and Ecotoxicology News: International Reviews, Opinions and Updates in Toxicology, Environmental Toxicology and Ecotoxicology.** Editors Sheila O'Hare and Chris Atterwill. Taylor and Francis. 4/yr. £115, \$193 (institutional); £45, \$76 (personal).

Now here is a nice little journal. Taylor and Francis have decided to publish a popular reviews and opinion journal on toxicology, in all its aspects. *Toxicology and Ecotoxicology News (TEN)* contains no original papers but is very well constructed