

Editorial

Biological Crystallography

With this issue a new Section of *Acta Crystallographica*, one devoted to biological crystallography, is initiated. The determination of crystal structures of biological macromolecules provides a wealth of information that makes this area of crystallography highly significant, exciting, and of general interest to a wide variety of scientists. An examination of the figures in any text in biochemistry or biology will attest to the great impact of X-ray diffraction studies on these sciences. Therefore the Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography has considered it appropriate to initiate a new section of *Acta Crystallographica*.

The number of reports of crystal structure determinations of biological macromolecules in the various scientific journals is rapidly increasing. When P. P. Ewald founded *Acta Crystallographica* in 1948, he expressed the hope that '*Acta* will focus international discussion on problems of crystallography.' The establishment of a separate section of *Acta Crystallographica* devoted to the study of biological structures will provide such an international forum and is clearly both an appropriate and a necessary means of furthering this goal. This new section will contain full-length articles, invited reviews, short communications, fast communications and letters. It is not our intent to include articles that more properly belong in the other three sections of *Acta Crystallographica*.

This first issue consists of articles resulting from a Conference on Direct Methods of Phasing in Macromolecular Crystallography, held at Panama City Beach, Florida, in April 1992. These reports provide a glimpse into methods to be used in the future for solving the phase problem for large molecules. Later issues for this year will concentrate more on structural studies. It is hoped that the scope of this section of *Acta Crystallographica* will be of interest to biochemists, molecular biologists, pharmacologists and, of course, crystallographers.

The aim of this journal is to provide a publishing home for details of crystal structure determinations of molecules of biological interest, while at the same time maintaining high-quality refereeing and editing of articles that *Acta Crystallographica* prides itself in. The assistance of the crystallographic community with this aim is much appreciated. I am delighted that the following crystallographers have agreed to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board to Section D to assist in policy and procedural matters.

E. N. Baker
Chemistry and Biochemistry Department,
Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Carl-Ivar Brändén
ESRF, BP 220, F-38043 Grenoble CEDEX, France

Guy Dodson
Chemistry Department, University of York,
Heslington, York YO1 5DD, England

Jan Drenth
Laboratorium voor Chemische Fysica,
University of Groningen, Nijenborgh 16,
9747 AG Groningen, The Netherlands

Wayne Hendrickson
Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics Department,
Columbia University, New York, NY 10032, USA

Yukiteru Katsube
Institute for Protein Research, Osaka University,
Yamada-oka 3-2 Suita, Osaka 565, Japan

Olga Kennard
Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre,
12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, England

Dino Moras
Laboratoire de Cristallographie Biologique, IBMC,
CNRS, 15 rue Descartes, 67084 Strasbourg CEDEX,
France

Michael G. Rossmann
Department of Biological Sciences,
Lilly Hall of Life Sciences, Purdue University,
West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA

Boris Vainshtein
Institute of Crystallography,
Academy of Sciences of Russia,
Leninsky prospekt 59, Moscow 117333, Russia

Ada Yonath
Structural Chemistry Department,
Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel

JENNY P. GLUSKER
Editor, Section D