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Editorial

Preface



Dear reader,

I am delighted to present the special issue: “50 years of European Journal of Pharmacology: learning from the past and looking into the future” on occasion of the 50th anniversary of the journal in 2017. The European Journal of Pharmacology founded by David de Wied and Jacques van Rossum, released its first issue in January 1967 (see Fig. 1). In their preface to this first issue the editors wrote: “The prolific rate at which new journals are currently appearing and the growing confusion which has resulted have indeed been major factors in discouraging the Editors from assuming their present role, and are thus, paradoxically enough the *raison d’être* of this preface”. The enthusiastic response from many pharmacologists at that time persuaded them to help establishing a pharmacological journal with the goal to gain international recognition of the field. Although many pharmacological journals were founded since then, the current history of EJP has proven that the founding editors were at the right end. The journal has become a well-respected forum to disseminate research papers covering all aspects of experimental pharmacology with focus on the mechanism of action of structurally identified compounds affecting biological systems. At present, EJP publishes between 600 and 700 papers per year and the editorial board has expanded to 7 editors, one editorial assistant, and over 70 editorial board members.

This anniversary issue contains a collection of invited papers on all disciplines covered by the journal. I believe they illustrate the great progress of the science in the field, but they also mark current needs and future directions. This special issue readily shows that the field of pharmacology is moving and expanding in different directions and I hope you will enjoy reading it. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the continuing quality and success of the European Journal of Pharmacology especially the numerous dedicated reviewers.

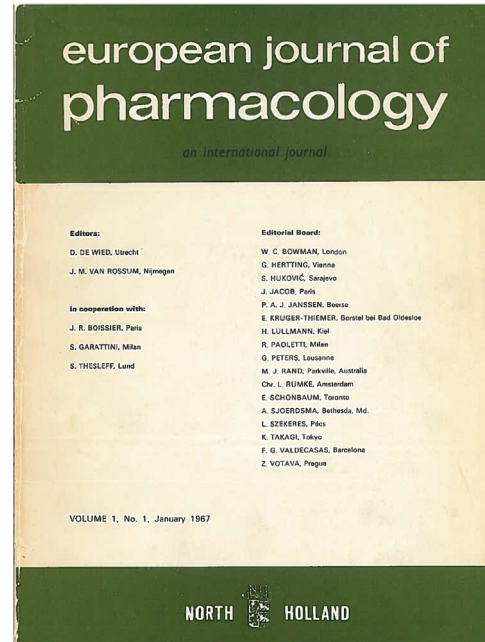


Fig. 1. Front cover of the first issue of the European Journal of Pharmacology published in January 1967.

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