FROM THE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The FDA Centennial and the Drug Information Association

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On June 30 of this year, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will celebrate 100 years of food and drug regulation in the United States. The Food and Drugs Act of 1906 was the beginning of the agency that is now the FDA. Although slightly younger by only a few years than the government's regulation of biologic products (the Biologics Control Act of 1902), the regulation of drug products, and later medical devices and other products, is the main mission of the FDA.

Although the Drug Information Association (DIA) is not quite as old as the FDA and its laws, DIA has been a part of the interactions, dialogue, and publication on the regulation of drug products since its inception in 1964. DIA, as a professional association of nearly 23,000 members worldwide, represents individuals who are involved in the discovery, development, regulation, surveillance, or marketing of pharmaceuticals or related products. DIA is committed to the broad dissemination of information among its members, with continuously improved professional practice as the goal. DIA serves its members in a neutral, global environment that operates independent of the influence of any one organization or authority.

One of the ways that DIA serves this mission is through its publication of articles and meeting presentations on topics of timely interest to its members. The *Drug Information Journal* (DIJ) is now in its 40th year of publication as the official publication of the Drug Information Association. The journal is a peer-reviewed, scholarly publication that seeks to disseminate information on manual and automated drug research, development, and information systems; to foster communication between educational, research, industrial, and governmental personnel engaged in drug information activities; and to provide a forum for the development of improved methods of presenting research data generated from chemical, toxicological, pharmacological, and clinical studies and other topics important in drug development. This includes topics such as compliance, pharmacovigilance, and biostatistics.

The DIJ now also offers medical and pharmacy continuing education credits for the continuing education article that appears, along with the posttest and evaluation form, in each issue. This is part of DIA's larger goal of providing an opportunity for career advancement and credit through DIA publications. As the need and demand arise, the journal will publish special sections on focused topics that highlight key regulatory issues critical to the safe and timely development of new drugs.

The landscape for drug development is now a global environment. The FDA is an active participant and leader in the International Conference on Harmonisation. DIA is pleased to have a

Drug Information Journal, *Vol. 40, pp. xix–xx, 2006* • *0092-8615/2006*

number of its members play a critical role in this historic process.

As the Editor-in-Chief, I am pleased to serve DIA and its members in leading the journal in the continuing tradition of offering opportunities for members to read and disseminate information critical to our role in drug development. Congratulations to the FDA and all the visionary leaders and persons who have shaped its direction and history over the last 100 years. The *Drug Information Journal* looks forward to continuing to publish timely and informative articles on drug regulation for the next century.