

# Biotechnology Letters

## EDITORIAL

One occasional editorial privilege is to scan the whole of our contents and try to see how what changes and trends may be noteworthy. So half-way into 1986, here are the results of such an exercise.

First (and easiest) - where are our papers coming from? For some time now, Canada has led the field in this respect and this is still the case (14 papers; mostly written during the ice-hockey season), but other countries are catching up, notably France with 13 (not exclusively about food), the U.K. with 12 (a welcome increase) and the USA (still learning how to overcome the problems of metric page size) with 10. Next in line in terms of productivity are old friends like Japan, Czechoslovakia, and India and a welcome newcomer Spain. The list of countries providing just one or two papers is long but worth giving in full: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Kuwait, Italy, Korea, Portugal, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey. It is worth noting that some of the smallest and least industrialised nations are as well represented in our pages as some developed countries.

Trend-spotters might be more interested in subject-matters. Here our objective is to be fully varied over the whole range of biotechnology, and in this (it seems) we are succeeding. We have been pleased to see a steadily increasing number of papers on the applications of molecular genetics and the problems of using transformed cells, an aspect of biotechnology which elsewhere might be given exaggerated importance but which is beginning to assume its proper proportions in our own pages. Variations of the ethanol fermentation continue to appear and we try to present only the significantly new ones; similarly our more restricted cover of other popular topics like the "solvents" fermentations, anaerobic digestion, and lignocellulosics biotechnology has helped us to highlight what we hope have been the more significant new developments. Advances in enzyme and immobilized cell processing continue to attract interest and there have been welcome increases in the number of papers devoted to polysaccharides and to food-oriented process biotechnology. We have been able to give space to fundamental developments in sensor applications, and to some - but not enough - papers on downstream aspects. Plant cell and animal cell technology are both receiving attention as are the algae, and there has been a steady input of papers on special metabolites.

We are sure that the flow of excellent and interesting research publications will continue. Hopefully by continuing to present the best and the most novel and urgent of these we can continue to serve - and interest - our readership - which is still growing.

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