

# Editorial

During the 1980s researchers in the areas of human monoclonal antibodies and related hybridomas and techniques fought long and hard to achieve some sort of acceptance. Only a handful of us who were working in the very late 1970s and early 1980s are still in the field. Many have tried it, found the work rather difficult and unproductive, and then moved on to greener pastures. After much wailing and gnashing of teeth, human monoclonal antibodies (including human B and T cell hybridomas and their molecular biology manipulations) have "arrived." This inaugural issue of *Human Antibodies and Hybridomas*, the one you are now holding in your hands, is a major step in making human antibodies a respected discipline.

The purpose of this new journal is to bring together all aspects of human hybridomas and antibody technology under a single cohesive theme. This includes fundamental research, applied science, and clinical applications.

Emphasis in the peer-reviewed, published articles in *Human Antibodies and Hybridomas* will focus on antisera, monoclonal antibodies, fusion partners, EBV transformation, transfections, in vitro immunization, defined antigens, tissue reactivity, scale-up production, chimeric antibodies, molecular biology, autoimmunity, natural antibodies/immune response, anti-idiotypes, and hybridomas secreting interesting growth factors. Immunoregulatory molecules, including T cell hybridomas, will also be featured.

For publication in this journal there are *only* two criteria: first, the antibody and/or hybridoma must be human (or humanized); second, the material submitted must be of the highest quality data and writing possible. With "the best and only the best," I expect this field and journal to flourish and prosper. The quality of submissions are, quite frankly, up to you, the gentle reader.

The journal is being launched at the First International Conference on Human Antibodies and Hybridomas. To commemorate the conference, the internationally recognized artist (winner of an unprecedented ten Hugo awards and given the title "Dean of Science Fiction Artists"), Frank Kelly Freas, has designed the painting *Human Antibodies* exclusively for us. The conference program book, as well as the back cover of the journal, features the painting. [The logo on the contents page was also designed by Frank Kelly Freas (from a preliminary sketch of mine).] *Human Antibodies* is such a fabulous piece that we have made a limited edition of signed and numbered lithographs and a four-color poster, both of which are available for purchase. If you are interested in owning a lithograph, please contact me directly for further information. If you would like to buy a four-color poster, please contact the Journals Department at Butterworths.

Finally, a few words of thanks to those who helped get this journal off the ground. My deepest appreciation goes to those on the Editorial Board. They have and will continue to make my job much easier. My heartfelt thanks go to Chris J. Rawlins, *publisher extraordinaire*, whose ears, I believe, I singed with my verbal pleading to publish this journal. To Susan Patterson, the journals manager; she had the toughest job and one that no one really appreciates. And, of course, my wife, Donna; the best . . . *the best* partner anyone could ask for! It can only get better.

Mark C. Glassy