

DENIS ALEXANDER

Editorial: A New Editor for *Science and Christian Belief*

Twenty-one years is quite long enough for a journal editor to be in post and it is high time for a change. It is therefore with great pleasure that I announce that Prof. Keith Fox will be taking over as Editor as from Issue 25-2 of *Science and Christian Belief*. Keith Fox is Professor of Biochemistry at Southampton University, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Nucleic Acids Research* and currently Chair of *Christians in Science*. I am therefore delighted to hand on the journal to such an experienced person and have no doubt that the journal will continue to flourish in Professor Fox's capable hands during the years ahead.

Science and Christian Belief saw its first Issue in April 1989, arising out of the fusion of two earlier publications, *Science and Faith* and *Faith and Thought*, published by *Christians in Science* and *The Victoria Institute*, respectively, who continue as the journal's owners and co-sponsors. The first Editor was Dr Oliver Barclay who saw the journal successfully established and handed over to the present Editor as from the April Issue in 1992. Much has changed in the intervening period. The original cover, size and style ('making it look too much like a sociology journal' according to one Editorial Board member) has been transformed. The journal is now available online and has greatly expanded its international scope.

But perhaps the biggest change has been in the greatly increased volume of submitted articles. Being a new journal at the time, it was still necessary to invite submissions to ensure that each issue was filled with high quality articles. Since the mid-1990s, however, that strategy has no longer been necessary as the journal became better known, and there has been a steady increase in submissions over the years as the field of science and religion has become better established within academia. Out of the 89 articles submitted over the period April 2007 – April 2012, 29 were accepted for publication, giving a one-in-three acceptance rate, which has remained a fairly steady average over the past two decades. Articles are reviewed by at least two referees. Virtually no articles are accepted for publication without revision arising from referees' comments.

Perhaps the greatest challenge is to see a new generation of younger authors in the science and faith arena. The journal much appreciates submissions from its stalwarts. But there is great scope for the new generation to contribute the next wave of new ideas to the field. The new Editor will be waiting expectantly.

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