EDITOR'S PAGE

The Governing Board of ABSA has recently appointed Linda Spencer (Hall) Martin to the newly established position of Associate Editor of JABSA. It is my great pleasure to extend to her a warm welcome. Linda is currently Director of HIV/AIDS Activity with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has been with CDC since her graduation from the University of Alabama with a B.S. degree in bacteriology. Her graduate education was at Georgia State University (M.S. in microbiology) and Emory University (Ph.D. in immunology). Linda has impressive qualifications for her new assignment having been a reviewer for a number of technical journals and the author/co-author of some 60 technical papers, abstracts, posters, and presentations.

Linda will share with me the onerous task of attracting quality papers to a young journal, not yet well known among the relevant professions, as well as all customary Editor’s tasks. We join in urging the membership of ABSA to prepare their Annual Meeting presentations in a publication format and to submit them to JABSA for review before or after presentation. Further, please be alert for papers of biosafety interest that have been, or might be, prepared by friends and colleagues and urge them to submit them to the journal. Finally, if you know of an excellent research finding, a lessons learned, or a critical review that is not being written-up because the persons responsible are not used to preparing material for publication, please give them whatever assistance may be needed as a generous service to ABSA and its journal.

The Editor extends his sincere thanks to those who have already submitted papers to the journal and to the many peer reviewers who have heeded his plea to hurry-up their response lest the journal run dry. It breaks the Editor’s heart to have to send essentially good papers that are desperately needed back to the authors for revisions, but there can be no compromises with accuracy, quality, and timeliness. In fact, authors are requested to consider the reviewers’ comments and to make the indicated revisions, or explain why the comments are not appropriate, before returning the paper for reconsideration--generally by the editors. My personal experience has been that good reviews are always beneficial, although I must admit that sometimes reviewers’ comments can be a bit hard to take.

Melvin W. First, Editor

5