

Editorial: First-class honors

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In this issue, two research articles from St John's University describe a thorough scientific approach to determine crucial aspects of excipient behavior for preparation of amorphous solid dispersions by hot melt extrusion. The approach combines a manufacturing process amendable for continuous manufacture with technology for improving drug solubility and bioavailability. Excipient properties are investigated in detail to elucidate differences between various grades of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate on formulation and processing performance. Kudos to the authors at St. John's, this is the first issue of the IJPE that has one group providing all the scientific substrate.

Our journal continues to seek new opportunities to evolve its capabilities to enable facile publication of scientific and quality topics focused on excipients. Changes have been made to enhance the Scientific Review Board with the addition of Dr Matthew Bogdanffy (a very experienced expert in non-clinical drug safety), and Dr Chinmay Potnis, a drug delivery scientist with a PhD in chemistry. Our thanks to Dr Kerry Blanchard for his service to the IJPE and our best wishes for achieving his ambitious retirement goals.

Efforts are underway to ensure that all future articles are assigned a DOI (digital object identifier) to increase the discoverability and citation of work published in the IJPE. The goal is to maximize the opportunities for important excipient topics to be more readily identified

and accessed by the research community. This will be the first time that the IJPE has provided this opportunity and, if possible, some retrospective assignment of DOIs will also take place to highlight the diversity of topics covered over the years. We strongly encourage our contributors, and readers, to share these unique identifiers (linked to metadata for published articles) on various social media posts to raise the profile of the excellent work being done on key scientific and quality matters, focused on excipients.

We hope that these positive "firsts" further enhance the reputation of our journal as it continues to develop its capabilities. For those interested in learning more about new trends and hot topics, you are reminded that there is an annual conference dedicated to excipients. This year the Excipient World Conference & Expo, will take place on May 4-6, 2026, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN. Scientific and quality workshops, presentations, and posters will be provided by an exceptional group of accomplished professionals. If you would like more information on the event, please use the following link: <https://s6.goe-show.com/ipec/annual/2026/>. The meeting is always outstanding, and this year will be particularly special as it will be IPEC-Americas' 35th year anniversary. Congratulations to the organization for its decades of success, and best wishes for many more to come.

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