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## In this issue

In this final issue for 2011 we have an array of thought-provoking papers. Leading off is Geoff Chamber's et al. *Publish and perish: A new look at bibliometric statistics in the PBRF age*. And although perhaps of immediate interest to academics involved in tertiary education, it poses questions and attempts to resolve the dilemma faced by all concerned with finding the best and most ethical way to present reliable evidence concerning the quantity and quality of their published research output and how this may influence their decisions about where to submit their manuscripts.

Rosemary Hipkin's *Public attitudes to science: Re-thinking outreach initiatives* begins with an outline of the 2010 MoRST survey of the public's attitude to science (the third such survey this decade) and introduces a range of survey items with their basic response frequencies. It also introduces a segmentation analysis that looked for patterns of associations within each individual's responses.

The second part of Rose's article then asks questions about just what it is about science we might want members of the public to engage with. And finally Rose suggests a different avenue with the potential for making a constructive response to the challenges the survey results highlight. This paper is intended to spark discussion and a re-evaluation of a complex issue – and it does.

Willie Smith once again captures the essence of the life and times of a leading figure in recent New Zealand science history. This time, Emeritus Professor A.R. (Dick) Bellamy, who in 2008 retired after 40 years at the University of Auckland. Preceding this, Dick spent three

years (1962–65) as a Research Scientist at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), completing his PhD while on staff, and then as a 'postdoc' worked from 1965–68 in the Department of Cell Biology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Over his career, as Willie points out, Dick moved from being a 'young radical' to take on a number of significant roles, including Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Cell Biology (1968–74), Associate Professor (1975–80), Professor of Cellular and Molecular Biology (1990–2008), Inaugural Director of the School of Biological Sciences (1991–2001), and Dean of Science (2001–2008).

Dick's reflections on his career remind us that pressures on the science system to meet national goals are not new, introduces us to the 'younger days' of people such as George Pederson, Dick Matthews and Frank Newhook, the development of a research culture in this country's universities, the demise of DSIR, and the rise of the science system we know today. While mindful of current problems, Dick remains optimistic and believes that today – as in the past – the goals set for New Zealand science require the fostering of individual scientists whose efforts, as before, ultimately drive the science system.

And in this vein, the recipients of the 2010 NZAS Awards are Brian Robinson – the Marsden Medal; Ken McNatty – the Shorland Medal; Shaun Hendy – the Research Medal; and Marc Wilson, the Science Communicator Award.

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Editor