

Letter from the Editor

Michael M. Cox

The disciplines of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology continue to advance, catalyzed by the development of increasingly sophisticated technologies. The pace of discovery can challenge those who seek to remain abreast of the latest science, professional and layperson alike. Investigators in a wide range of disciplines require an appreciation of the significance of new discoveries. Members of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology community seek understanding of advances in areas remote from their own. Teachers require summaries of key advances that can aid them in transmitting the information to new generations.

In this environment, carefully constructed reviews of important areas of research have never been more important. This journal's founder, Gerald Fasman, expressed the overall goal thus: "Reviews that organize, evaluate, and present the current status of a particular area, at a describable level of detail, devoid of the particular field's jargon, are an effective means of meeting these needs. Hence, *Critical Reviews in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*."

We now rededicate ourselves to these principles, and expand them. More than ever, our authors will be encouraged not just to review, but to teach. In constructing a critical review, we seek an author's particular viewpoint, but also ask for balance and a broad perspective. Unlike most review journals, there are no length restrictions or requirements in CRBMB. An author is free to cover an area in the space he or she deems appropriate to the task. To aid in understanding, we especially encourage carefully constructed figures, showing both data (where needed) and summaries of models and pathways and ideas. From our founder again: "A truly critical review is an outstanding device for the integration and meaningful compression of a large, often contradictory literature. It also offers an unparalleled opportunity for creative scholarship by synthesizing out of known facts fruitful hypotheses and new concepts."

Authors are selected by an outstanding and international editorial board, with expertise in almost every area of the disciplines we cover. Once or twice a year, editorial board members submit suggestions for authors and topics to be incorporated into CRBMB. The journal continues to publish six issues each year. Beginning in 2007, one or more of those issues will feature a special focus on a particular area of current interest. Guest editors will help to organize some of these efforts.

To make these reviews more accessible, we are enhancing our website and adding features that should be useful to teachers and interested scholars. Reviews more than 12 months old will be made available for free on January 1 of each year. The archive, as it is developed, will be made available for free.

"It is to these objectives of the critical review and to a better understanding of the trends of modern Biochemistry and Molecular Biology that this publication is dedicated."