

EDITORIAL

The European Biophysics Journal and the 3rd European Biophysics Congress

EBSA and EBJ: Since the adoption of the current title of the Journal in 1984, the European Biophysics Journal (EBJ) has had a close relationship with the European Biophysical Societies' Association (EBSA). As part of its contents, the Journal has included the EBSA Calendar of Events, detailing scientific activities of many of the Member Societies of the Association. Individual members of the Societies have been responsible for supporting the Journal by serving as members of the Editorial Board and the Advisory Editorial Board. In addition, members have frequently fulfilled the important role of expert reviewer of submitted manuscripts, as well as being the authors of original research papers. I (and Peter Bayley, the Managing Editor until January 2000) wish to thank them all for this continued invaluable support and I personally look forward to our interactions and guidance in the future.

Ownership: A major change has been in place since early 1996, when an agreement was implemented between EBSA and the publishers conferring joint ownership of the Journal, shared between EBSA and Springer. This arrangement promises a new degree of financial stability for the Journal and for EBSA, and a closer link and interest for members in the growth and development of the Journal.

Personal subscriptions: Personal subscriptions were introduced in 1996, making it possible for individual members of the member societies to become subscribers for a modest price. This is presently set at DM 150 (~ 77 Euro in June 2000) plus post and packing. Full details can be obtained from the EBJ and EBSA Web pages (see below) and can be ordered directly from (http://www.ebsa.org/ebj/ebj_subs.html).

Journal development and submissions: The Editorial Board is making a special effort to increase the size of the Journal and its publishing frequency, by encouraging colleagues to submit their best work to the Journal in the form of EBJ Invited Reviews, original Research Articles, and as Biophysics Letters. The purpose of Biophysics Letters is to provide a means for the rapid publication of significant new findings and concepts in Biophysics, with accelerated publication available for work which is basically acceptable in the submitted form, and which meets the Journal's normal high standards of rigour and originality. The Editor for Biophysics Letters is Professor Erich Sackmann.

Details of contacts and submission to the Journal are given elsewhere in this Issue, and on the EBJ Home page, together with Instructions for Authors. Specific enquiries can always be addressed to me at the Editorial Office. In addition, the Journal is pleased to support the Congress by the publication of this volume of Abstracts, each section of which has been reviewed by the conference organisers.

Electronic publishing: There are important developments world-wide in electronic publishing and access, and the Journal will keep up with these developments, ensuring more ready access and visibility. In this respect, the contents of the Journal can be viewed from the Springer Home Page (<http://link.springer.de/link/service/journals/00249/>

tocs.htm), and full articles are available for electronic subscribers. Within the next few months, proofs will be handled electronically and acceptance dates will be within days of proof revision, thereby reducing the time of processing and formal publication of papers considerably. Other changes are being considered in this ever changing environment. The Editorial Board therefore invites all members to participate in the strengthening and development of the Journal as an international venue for Biophysics by submitting their papers to the Journal.

3rd European Biophysics Congress: This congress therefore comes at an important turning point in the Journal's history. On behalf of the Editorial Board, I should like to thank Peter Fromherz as chairman, and all those colleagues in Munich whose efforts have ensured the timely production of this Issue, and to wish this Congress every success, both as a scientific meeting of high quality, and as a venue where long-lasting personal friendships can be strengthened in the common interests of a fascinating, productive and important field of scientific endeavour. We hope to see the relationship between EBSA and the Journal continue to develop to mutual benefit, in helping to promote the further development of Biophysics within a European and international context, and to establish the European Biophysics Community as a lively participant in the subject at the highest level.

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