
EDITORIAL THE EUROPEAN BIOPHYSICS JOURNAL AND JOINT 5TH EBSA & 15TH IUPAB INTERNATIONAL BIOPHYSICS CONGRESS, MONTPELLIER, FRANCE, 2005

This congress reaffirms very strongly the position of Europe in the international biophysics community. Participation, and visibility of EBJ and EBSa will be greatly enhanced by the increased number of participants at the congress this year, many of whom have been attracted through the joint participation of IUPAB. On behalf of the Editorial Board of EBJ, I would like to thank Michel Kochoyan, President of the organizing committee for all his time and efforts with this major organizational feat of staging this congress, and Daniel Lavalette, who has been intimately involved with the web pages and, importantly, abstract submissions for the EBJ special issue abstract book. Both have been aided by the scientific committee, with Dino Moras as President, and the French Biophysical Society (SFB). We thank them and all their colleagues in France who have worked so well together, focussing their joint efforts on ensuring that this Congress runs successfully and smoothly, both as a scientific meeting of high quality, as well 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, to encourage more submissions of highest quality papers from a wider constituency to help to promote the further development of EBJ within a European and international arena, and to establish the European Biophysics Community as a lively participant in the subject at the premiership level. Finally, for EBJ, as the voice of the European Biophysics Community, it is a particularly special occasion to acknowledge the joint sponsorship of IUPAB and its committee members to bring a truly international flavour to the whole proceedings in such a delightful and sophisticated environment as Languedoc-Roussillon.

EBSA and EBJ

Since the adoption of the current title of the Journal in 1984, the European Biophysics Journal has had a close relationship with 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. As Managing Editor, I 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 took place in 1996, when an agreement was implemented between EBSA and the publishers conferring joint ownership of the Journal, shared between EBSA and Springer. This arrangement has now brought 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. **Handling times for papers** The Oxford office is now averaging a time of 6 – 8 weeks between receipt of a paper and the first decision to an author about their paper for ~85% of all submitted papers (as a matter of course, every paper is acknowledged upon receipt in the office). In addition, on receipt of corrected proofs by the publisher, the paper is published on the web (in On-Line First) within 10 days with a citable DOI (document identifier) number. Any further delays in publication are usually associated with seeking and receiving suitable reviewer comments, as well as authors' delays in revising papers in response to reviewers' comments.

Electronic submission

From May 15 2003, all material (papers, letters, reviews, techniques) have been submitted electronically, by logging on to <http://ebj.manuscriptcentral.com/> Re-viewing and editorial work is performed from here, and authors can track their papers directly. 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.

Journal development and submission numbers

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. Over the last 18 months, we have seen a major growth in the number of submissions, more than doubling since October 2002 until now, with very significant numbers from the Pacific Rim and the Australian Biophysics Society, in particular. This upturn has resulted from, it is assumed, in the new interest in biophysics and the recent decisions to fund "interface" science at the boundaries of physics, biology and chemistry. In particular, we have seen a major influx of papers describing single molecule detection and bionanotechnology, areas we are pleased to support. Our relationship with the publishers has continued to develop well and we continue to be very well supported by an efficient staff in maintaining EBJ as one of the many high profile scientific journals published by Springer. In particular, EBSA and the EBJ Editors would like to thank Dieter Czeschlik, Sabine Schreck and Janina Sobolewski for their contribution, patience and highly responsible attitude towards the production of this abstract book to support this EBSA congress.

Personal subscriptions

Personal hard copy and electronic-only subscriptions were introduced in 2000 at a highly favourable rate, making it possible for individual members of the EBSA member societies to become subscribers for a very modest price. Full details can be obtained from the EBJ inside cover and EBSA Web pages (www.ebsa.org) and can be ordered directly from (www.ebsa.org/ebj/ebj_subs.html).

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EBSA Information: <http://www.ebsa.org/>

BIOPHYSICS : THE END OF SIMPLICITY ?

The proposal from Dr J-M. Lhoste to hold the 2005 International Biophysics Congress in Montpellier as a joint meeting of IUPAB and EBSA was adopted by both organizations in 1999.

Six years later, with more than 1 300 participants from 59 countries, the present meeting turns out to be the most important of Biophysics Congresses ever held on the European continent. The large participation of students (34%) and young scientists further attests the vigour of Biophysics over the world and across the generations.

The scientific program has been constructed with the intention of highlighting the contemporary trends of Biophysics to address issues about increasingly complex objects and "integrated" systems. More than 80 outstanding scientists have accepted an invitation to deliver "state of the art" lectures. In order to complement these lectures, and to provide the widest possible overview of each topic, 90 abstracts from about 1 100 were selected by the chairs of the 24 Symposia for an oral presentation.

It is a real pleasure for the French hosts to welcome you in Montpellier.

*The Organizing Committee
Michel Kochoyan, Chairman*

*Société Française de Biophysique
Daniel Lavalette, President*

*The Scientific Committee
Dino Moras, Chairman.*

*Comité National de Biophysique
Thérèse Garestier-Hélène, President*