

Editorial

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Editorial

In my inaugural editorial, I expressed the ambition that *Journal of The Royal Society Interface* would empower the advance of cross-disciplinary science. With this, the third issue of the journal, I believe we are making strong progress towards achieving this aim. Since its launch in the spring of 2004, *Interface* has attracted high-quality submissions from across a wide range of disciplines, including biomechanics, systems biology, tissue engineering, mathematical biology, nanomaterials and chemical biology. It is particularly encouraging that a number of articles have attracted widespread interest and high website usage. The journal has also begun to publish review articles by renowned authors and thought-provoking short reports. For example, this issue features a review on molecular imaging and a report on a new vascular graft which generates swirling blood flow and thus inhibits stagnation and possible obstruction. Among the research papers is a study of the micromechanical behaviour of dentin/adhesive interfaces, as well as an article which uses the computer as a model system for systems biology. I have been fortunate in being able to call upon the expertise of a first-class Editorial Board in shaping these early issues of the journal.

The feedback we have obtained from authors has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have welcomed the chance to be published in a 'neutral' journal, which can be trusted not to support one side of the life science/physical science divide to the detriment of the other. Contributors have also praised the efficiency of the editorial process and the very high production values of *Interface*. From the beginning, the journal's editorial procedures have been continually reassessed, resulting in a rapid and effective service, without compromising the quality of the review process. The average period from receipt to first decision is now 35 days, and we are working hard to reduce further these publication times.

With such positive progress, I am confident that *Interface* offers a distinctive international forum for papers from the spectrum between the physical and life sciences. Hence, I would welcome the submission of articles, reviews and reports which will advance our understanding of this exciting, diverse and rapidly expanding field.

William Bonfield