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Editorial

William Bonfield

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Editorial

In my previous editorial (Bonfield 2006) I looked forward to a second term as Editor of *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*. I noted a number of forthcoming features that I believed would add to the appeal and quality of the journal, consolidating it as a forum for research which spans the traditional boundary between the physical and life sciences. I am pleased to report that this has indeed been the case.

The most significant event of 2007 was the journal obtaining its first full impact factor of 2.984. This places *J. R. Soc. Interface* fourth in the Journal Citation Reports multidisciplinary sciences category behind only *Science*, *Nature* and *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA*. To achieve such a respectable impact factor after only 3 years highlights the rapid progress made by the journal. We hope to build on this success in 2008.

Such progress depends, of course, on the journal continuing to attract the best authors and the highest quality submissions. Over the past year, we have attained both across a wide variety of disciplines. As examples, we have published distinctive papers on biomimetics (Gorb *et al.* 2007), cell engineering (Wood 2007) and infectious disease dynamics (Chowell *et al.* 2007). We have also published leading-edge articles on biochemistry (Nebel *et al.* 2007), tissue engineering (Metcalfe & Ferguson 2007) and bioengineering (Dorfmann *et al.* 2007).

The year 2007 saw the publication of two themed supplements: *Self-healing polymers and composites* (Sottos *et al.* 2007) and *Cross-scale influences on epidemiological dynamics: from genes to ecosystems* (Matthews & Haydon 2007). These collections of papers on a dedicated topic have proved highly successful, and the former supplement featured at the First International Conference on Self-healing Materials in Noordwijk, Holland. We aim to publish four more themes this year.

Not surprisingly, the success of the journal has led to an ever increasing number of submissions. Consequently, the number of issues this year will be increased to 12 so that *J. R. Soc. Interface* is now a monthly publication. One of the subsequent benefits will be a reduction in print publication times. The average submission to online publication time continues to be 60 days, despite the greater flow of papers. A major factor in maintaining this figure, while also upholding the Royal Society's rigorous peer review standards, has been the introduction of a new online web-based, peer review and online submission system, Manuscript Central.

The combination of factors described above bodes well for 2008. As always, your suggestions as a reader and/or author would be welcomed.

William Bonfield
Editor-in-chief

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