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Five years on

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Editorial

Five years on

This issue marks the fifth anniversary of the launch of *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* in May 2004. After consulting widely, it became apparent that the traditional distinction between the physical sciences, including mathematics, and the biological sciences was becoming ever more problematic. Such a division ignored the scientific challenges and opportunities which were increasingly emerging at their interface. It was recognised that interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research was flourishing, but that a forum for its publication and promotion was lacking, especially by a journal which did not favour either side of the physical science/life science divide.

In my first editorial, I stated the ambition that *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* would empower the advance of cross-disciplinary science and that 'our success would depend on the quality and impact of the submitted papers we publish.' I am delighted to report that such an aspiration is being realised. Submissions have shown a consistent year-on-year increase, which has necessitated a corresponding rise in the number of issues, from four in our first full year of publication to one a month in 2008. The quality of articles has followed a similar trajectory. The *Journal's* impact factor is already above three making it fifth in ISI's multi-disciplinary category.

It is thus not surprising that *Journal of the Royal Society Interface* has attracted some of the world's most renowned researchers. The range of submissions, both research articles and review papers, is also impressive; tissue engineering of replacement skin, self-healing materials, optical tweezers, diamond and biology, bio-inspired adhesive pads and the hyperelastic modelling of arterial layers are but a few of the distinctive subjects covered in the last five years.

Another source of satisfaction has been the acceptance of our themed publication, *Interface Focus*. Beginning in 2008 with an issue on biological switches and clocks, we now aim to publish six issues a year on topics such as synthetic biology and the bio-nano-interface. *Interface Focus* offers a special opportunity for both authors and readers to define a particular field through a collection of related articles, with the benefit of knowing that all have passed through the Royal Society's stringent peer-review process.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the editorial board for their role in the development of *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*. Not only have they offered me guidance and acted as referees, but they have also submitted their own work for publication. I would also like to thank both the Royal Society and the publishing team for their support, with special thanks to Dr Tim Holt for his outstanding service as Publishing Editor. I look forward to overseeing the *Journal's* continued progress over the coming years and hope that you, either as an author, referee and/or reader, will continue your valued participation.

William Bonfield
Editor