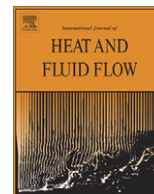


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Letter from the Editors

The Journal has been operating for the past 20 months exclusively under the Elsevier Electronic System, EES, for submitting manuscripts for publication. The Editors-in-Chief thus felt it was time to report back to our readers both on the outcomes of this new arrangement and on other changes that have been introduced, partly as a consequence of that change. First, it may be said that everyone associated with EES – authors, reviewers, editors and Elsevier's “back-room” staff – have accommodated the changeover with little if any difficulty. It is a change that seems to have been especially welcomed by authors, for the number of manuscripts submitted has increased greatly during the period. This surge in submissions, which may also have been partly stimulated by IJHFF's increased impact in its fields of publication, has led to the Journal being chosen to benefit from Elsevier's “Quick-to-Print” policy that is offered to selected journals. In brief, instead of a fixed annual number of pages that is predetermined long in advance, individual issues can vary in length so as to reduce to a minimum the time that any accepted article is waiting to move from on-line to printed version. Again, this change is one that will self-evidently benefit both authors and readers.

Another change that has indirectly arisen from the switch to electronic submission is that it no longer made sense to assign editors exclusively to handle papers submitted from particular regions of the globe. Papers are now allocated in rotation to Editors-in-Chief who in turn may allocate a proportion of them to Associate Editors to benefit from their particular areas of specialization.

A further feature that readers may have noted in the June special issue is the adoption of a new style, both in layout of the title page and in the typeface adopted. The latter was chosen to improve ease of reading, whether from the screen or the printed page. The present regular issue contains papers compiled in both formats so readers have a ready opportunity to compare the new and the old format. We trust they share the editors' enthusiasm for the new style.

Finally, we bring to readers' attention a change in the editorial team. Professor S. Obi, after serving the Journal as Associate Editor for two years, has had to relinquish his position due to increasing responsibilities at his university. We are very pleased to welcome as his replacement Professor Akira Murata from the Department of Mechanical Systems Engineering in the Graduate School of Engineering of Tokyo University of Agriculture & Technology. Professor Murata brings with him expertise in heat transfer in rotating machinery (employing both experimental and numerical approaches). At a fundamental level he has examined transport phenomena at gas-liquid interfaces and extends this to heat transport devices involving phase change and to high performance heat exchangers. We look forward to drawing on his knowledge and experience in these areas.

Editors-in-Chief

T.B. Gatski

N. Kasagi

B.E. Launder