

## **Editorial – The communication, development and promotion of biophysical science in a European and international context**

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It is a great honour to have been asked to take over from Tony Watts as the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal (EBJ). Tony's excellent service over the last 15 years has seen the maintenance of a high standard across the journal's range of publications, and the continued promotion of biophysical science through international engagement, special subject issues and the like. Tony's is a very hard act to follow and I am only too well aware of the importance of taking care to maintain and build on his legacy. That being said, we know too that Tony will be continuing to make his contribution both to the Journal and to the European Biophysical Societies Association (EBSA) more widely over the years ahead.

EBJ is a two-way channel of communication between scientists, and biophysical societies and communities across Europe and beyond. As financial supporter of EBSA activities EBJ plays a vital role in the encouragement of the science which it itself publishes, with a focus on a molecular and physical understanding of biological processes, including the development of new technologies, techniques and protocols. As an organ of communication between researchers around the world and the international scientific community, EBJ in return enables the maintenance and building of scientific capacity, as well as the development and sharing of insights and methodology.

Some biophysical techniques are very well established and show no signs of becoming less important as others come to the fore. The journal will continue to reflect the contributions made by such methods to the advancement of scientific understanding. We will also be keen to showcase and – where possible – to assist in the development and assessment/benchmarking of emerging methods, and indeed of standard operating procedures for community-wide application. This should hopefully involve engagement with other international groupings including the Association of Resources for Biophysical Research in Europe (ARBRE) and the Biophysical Society and International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics.

One of the obvious features of modern biomolecular and biophysical science is the extent to which studies are integrated efforts – they require collaboration between different labs and across disciplines. EBJ will continue to reflect the ways in which integrated biophysics – an exactly complementary approach to the integrated structural biology of modern molecular science – makes a special contribution by allowing the analysis of systems/problems from the multiple perspectives multiple techniques afford. Indeed, to my mind one of the most interesting areas for the future will be the ways in which theoretical, modelling and simulation studies integrate with quantitative data from and observed phenomena within living systems and their components.

Even in an age of online access, videoconferencing, and podcasts, conferences and meetings remain important forums for scientific discussion, whether in the clarification of ideas and hypotheses, the development of collaborations and novel approaches, or the sharing of results. Special issues of EBJ provide an ideal channel for capturing the state of a field – whether with a technical or a biological focus – and with the pace of development in some areas very high, the journal will remain keen to assist in the publication of article

compilations which capture current understanding. Such journal issues provide a way of communicating with a wider focus than a conference or collaborative or working group alone can manage.

In any case, speedy and high quality processes of review, fair judgement, and working with authors to improve their submissions will remain journal priorities. The efforts that go into any submission to a journal are fully recognised and EBJ wishes wherever possible to bring authors' contributions to publication in a timely fashion and to a high standard.

EBJ can continue to be an outstanding resource for the discussion of data, ideas and techniques; for the education of scientists at all levels; and for the building and maintenance of scientific communities. I will do my best to make sure it does.