

New editorial structure and procedures

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EDITORIAL

NEW EDITORIAL STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES

AFFILIATIONS

Following the American and European Societies, the International Society of Biomechanics is now also affiliated with the Journal on the same basis. Welcome aboard to almost 500 biomechanics scientists from all over the world. As the other societies, the ISB is represented in the editorial structure. However, the Journal remains an independent publication, and in addition to Editorial Board members and Consultants nominated by the affiliated Societies, we have also selected other candidates.

EDITORIAL BOARD

A second notable retirement is that of Werner Goldsmith from the Editorial Board. Werner's appointment dates to the founding of the Journal, and he has served in the Board for 20 years. There is much we owe him and the Journal would not be what it is now without his devotion and ideas. The 'Guidelines for Reviewers' sent with every manuscript, for one thing, is from his hand.

Other resignations in the Board are those of Bernard F. Morrey and Dick van Campen, the latter as an ESB representative. We wish to express our gratitude for giving so freely of their time and talents for the sake of the Journal, its authors and readers.

Newly created is the position of Associate Editor for Cardiovascular Research, which was accepted by Paul D. Stein from Detroit, Michigan. In this capacity, Paul will monitor the quality of manuscripts in this area, and advise us about new developments, potential authors and referees.

Other fresh appointments in the Board are those of Benno M. Nigg from Calgary, Canada, and John P. Paul from Strathclyde, Scotland, both representing the ISB. Lance E. Lanyon from London, U.K., is a succeeding representative for the ESB. Thomas P. Andriacchi from Chicago, Illinois, and Andrus Viidik from Aarhus, Denmark, both considered non-affiliated, complete the team.

The Editorial Board will meet on a regular basis. Its members are appointed for four-year terms and will advise us in matters of Journal policy and organisation. They will help us attract high quality manuscripts of all kinds, and develop particular subfields. In addition they will perform arbiter reviews in cases of disagreements between authors and referees.

CONSULTANTS PANEL

First of all, we must announce the resignations of Charles Burstone and James H. McElhaney. Both have served as Consultants for 20 years and have performed numerous reviews during that time. With them, Verne L. Roberts and Werner Goldsmith, the last of the 'founding fathers' have left the editorial organisation.

Other resignations are those of Pascal Christel, Reinhard Koelbel, G. van der Perre and Daniel Quemada, all representatives of the ESB, and D. A. Guenther, Robert J. Nikolai, Y. C. Pao, C. A. Phillips and Raymond P. Vito of the non-affiliated group. We are grateful for their contributions over the years.

A total of 35 Consultants have been appointed for a two-year term, of which 3 were nominated by the ASB, 6 by the ESB, 13 by the ISB, and 13 were selected independently of the society nominations. You will find their names on the inside front cover. As before, Consultants will be the prime reviewers for research papers and notes.

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Our procedures and policies for manuscript submission and reviews will remain largely unchanged. We will continue our efforts to reduce review-time lapses, keeping in mind, however, that referees are busy volunteers. Publication times can hardly be reduced, given the quality of the print; the four to six months Pergamon Press needs is short compared to other periodicals.

It must be remarked, however, that we currently have a backlog due to a notable increase in manuscript submissions during the last two years. To solve this, Pergamon Press has offered an increase in the budget from 1000 to 1300 pages per year. In addition we must be extremely selective, in particular at the present time, in order to rapidly diminish the backlog.

Where the contents of the Journal are concerned, we wish to strengthen its biological flavor, thereby accommodating the interests of many readers. This simply means more emphasis on biological aspects and more space for reports on the analysis of the living tissues. However, we will not sacrifice our standards for experimental and analytical quality.

4 Editorial

Mathematical modeling will remain an integral part of the scope, as was already stated on page 1 of Volume 1, Number 1 (1968), but we will ask the authors to explain the significance of their material in non-mathematical terms. We will also more rigorously distinguish original research papers and Technical Notes, publishing those manuscripts which lack either a biological or a mechanical aspect, or which do not address specific questions or hypotheses (yet are still of potential interest to our readers) in the latter category.

As before, we will publish Survey Articles (by Editorial invitation), original research papers, Technical Notes, Book Reviews, Conference Abstracts (affiliated Societies only), Editorials, Letters-to-the-Editor, and Announcements. In addition, we intend to initiate the publication of Brief Reports and Clinical Applications. All categories will be defined on the revised inside back cover of the next issue. The affiliated Societies will have the option of including a 'camera ready' page with Society News, via their representatives in the Editorial Board.

In the 'Survey' category (and maybe others as well) we plan to devote some space to 'History of Biomechanics' and 'Teaching in Biomechanics'. Maybe our newly appointed 'Founding Editor' will help us here, being a renowned collector and expert of mechanics history.

CLOSING REMARKS

We look to the future of the Journal of Biomechanics with confidence, knowing that the field is alive and growing. We approach our editorial tasks enthusiastically, but humble in the realization that we, as Editors, only stand at the crossroads of manuscript flow, where authors and referees are the ones who really matter. We can only publish what we receive from authors; peer review is the mechanism by which quality is upheld. Although this may sometimes be perceived differently, we, the Editors, the members of the Editorial Board and the Consultants intend to assist authors in publishing quality papers, not to prevent them from doing so.

We are deeply indebted to those who preceded us and had the vision to create and nurture this Journal, and we are in the middle of a cluster of their anniversaries. After having celebrated the 80th Birthday of F. Gaynor Evans, the 20th Anniversaries of this Journal, the service of its 'Founding Editor', Verne L. Roberts, and a few of his assistants, we can also announce the 40th Anniversary of Pergamon Press, and the 65th Birthday of its founder and chief, Robert Maxwell, on 10 June, 1988. We wish Robert Maxwell and his organisation many happy returns, grateful for everything he and his collaborators have done to promote science in general and Biomechanics in particular.

RIK HUISKES RICHARD A. BRAND Editors-in-Chief