

## Editorial

This issue inaugurates a new stage in the life of *Biophysical Journal*. For the first time in its 32-year history, *BJ* is being sent to all non-student members of the Biophysical Society. This means that an author's paper will be seen by over 4000 subscribers in addition to those who browse in libraries. A major promotional effort is also being mounted to develop library subscriptions, particularly overseas in Europe and Japan, as befits the role of *Biophysical Journal* as the leading international journal of biophysical research. This dramatic growth in circulation, along with the strong, steady increase in the number of papers published in *BJ*, has very positive implications for improved exchange of information in all fields of modern biophysics.

Another major change is our switch to self-publishing, with a new copyediting-printing company: Waverly Press. For 31 years these duties were handled by Rockefeller University Press, to whom we are most grateful for their highly professional and supportive work. However, the world of scientific publishing has changed dramatically in the past few years, and it seemed necessary for *BJ* operations to keep up with those changes if we are to provide rapid, efficient, low-cost publishing of the best of biophysics research. Waverly Press has state-of-the-art facilities for integrated copyediting, typesetting, and printing. Author-supplied diskettes (which have been provided in past months by virtually all of our authors) speed operations, keep costs down, and minimize errors. With this new system, our production schedule is now just 7 weeks from acceptance of the last manuscript for an issue to mailing of that issue—and 2 weeks of that is for proofreading by authors. This cuts nearly 2 months off our previous schedule, and makes us competitive with virtually any monthly journal.

We have also made changes in some details that will be important to authors and readers:

- Responding to numerous requests, we have reinstated the (Author, Year) format for in-text citation of references, with the reference list alphabetized by author. While this format takes a little more space, the extra number of pages is small and is more than compensated by the greater convenience for authors and greater information conveyed to readers. We have become more vigilant in enforcing standards for figure sizing and lettering, both to save space and to improve the appearance of the journal. Please see Instructions to Authors for details.
- Color figures will be free except for the cost of separations, if the use of color is necessary to convey information. This is an experiment of limited duration (1–2 years) to assess costs and utilization.

The Biological Laboratory<sup>1</sup>  
LIBRARY

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We continue to explore new ways of disseminating scientific information through diskettes, CD-ROMs, and electronic bulletin boards. We are ~~Planning another Master~~—containing issue. As in November 1992, we will publish articles involving molecular structures whose presentation would be enhanced by a Kinemage supplement. We would like to go beyond last year, however, in presenting other kinds of information on diskette. Some examples might include data files (e.g., time series or spectra) that interested readers could manipulate using their own software; data bases of biophysical properties; programs or subroutines in standard languages, or spreadsheet macros, that perform useful calculations, modelling, or data analysis; illustrations or animations of biophysical processes, using a standard software package; and virtual instruments constructed with LabVIEW® or a similar instrument control/data acquisition package. If you have other ideas, please feel free to submit them. This is an experiment to explore what kinds of information exchange, in a variety of formats and media, might be of most interest and value to the biophysics community. In this exploratory phase, imaginative input from a broad cross-section of biophysicists will be most useful. If there are more acceptable submissions than can be accommodated on a single diskette, choice will be based on broad interest and diversity of applications. A strong possibility is that all accepted contributions will be placed on a file server, accessible by anonymous FTP.

*Biophysical Journal* intends to serve the biophysics community not just as a research journal, but also as an educational resource. To this end we publish review articles, papers on the teaching of biophysics, and book and software reviews. An important policy to further this educational function was approved by the Publications Committee last February. Teachers can make photocopies of articles in *BJ* for classroom use without payment of copyright fees, so long as students are charged no more than the cost of reproduction. This policy is printed on the inside front cover of each issue of the journal; show it to your local copy center. We feel this is a noteworthy counter to the recent pernicious trend of charging high per-copy fees for instructional use of scientific journal articles. You might consider urging the other scientific societies to which you belong to make a similar change in their policies.

Victor Bloomfield  
Editor