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BIORHEOLOGY

EDITORIAL

With this issue, I am taking over the Executive Editorship of *Biorheology* from Pedro Verdugo, a task I accepted with some trepidation a few months ago. Happily, I find that I need not have feared the event. There was help for a novice Editor-in-Chief and plenty of good advice on problem solving. First, there is an Editorial Office in Seattle staffed by two very competent part-time workers: Editorial Associate Therese Grisham and her Assistant, Jenny Schlieps, who labor devotedly in anything but luxurious surroundings. Second, there is Pedro Verdugo, who really prepared the way, solving many problems before I ever came onto the scene. We are all aware of the substantial improvement in the layout, quality and uniformity of the articles presented in each issue. That improvement has come with hard work at the Editorial Office, work that at times extends to considerable editing of manuscripts, a time-consuming task which also requires the cooperation of the Associate Editors and authors. Moreover, Pedro Verdugo and Alex Silberberg implemented a more rigorous review process, which it will be my task to continue to carry out while bearing in mind the redefinition of editorial policy that has taken place in the last two years. Third, there have been the support and cooperation of Associate Publisher Justin Robinson from Pergamon Press, whom I met recently and who is keen to see the journal prosper.

To facilitate the move of the Executive Editorship from Seattle to Montréal, and to acquaint myself with

the computerized operation of the journal, I visited the Editorial Office in Seattle in early December. When I consider the limited office space and financial support presently available to the journal, the results I witnessed are impressive. Because the operation now proceeds so smoothly, Pedro and I decided to leave the Editorial Office in Seattle and use Fax and e-mail to communicate on a daily basis.

Manuscripts sent to my office in Montréal will be assigned to an Associate Editor for the review process. They will be forwarded to that Editor with instructions on how to proceed and within what time limit the paper should be refereed. Subsequently, the Editor will communicate directly with the Editorial Office in Seattle, and the manuscript will be returned to that office. If acceptable, it will be further edited, as necessary, and prepared for publication.

At this time, I understand my main task as one of continuing to improve the quality and diversity of the science of the papers published in *Biorheology*. To be frank, I must admit that in the past, the journal has been considered "soft", scientifically speaking, and that this was in part due to a "soft" review process. Under Pedro's and Alex's guidance, that has changed. Not only must the peer review process be thorough; it must also be speedy.

Here, much depends on the good will and hard work of the Editorial Board and the referees. Most of us have experienced both sides of the review process. We have anxiously

awaited news from the reviewers of our manuscripts, yet we have groaned as another paper comes across our desk to be refereed. May I appeal to the Editors and reviewers to expedite the handling of manuscripts? The success of the journal depends upon you. The Editorial Office and I will do our best to help, and work to improve monitoring the review process.

On another important note, under the Presidency of Giles Cokelet of the University of Rochester, New York, the 9th International of Biorheology will be held next year in Big Sky, Montana, USA, from July 23rd to July 28th. As is customary, the meeting will feature a number of symposia with invited speakers. Present editorial policy, as agreed to at the 8th International Congress in

Yokohama in 1992, requires that publication of papers from such symposia be contingent on rigorous and successful peer review. It follows that symposium papers substantially devoted to already published work are excluded from publication, since the purpose of *Biorheology* is to publish new and original research on the flow and deformation of biological systems or materials.

I am heartened by the kind and encouraging messages of support that I have received from various Editors. I count on your support. To foster the health and success of our journal so ardently desired by its founder, A. L. Copley, is not just my task—it is the task of the “international guild” of biorheologists, as Pedro has called our community. I trust that our efforts will be rewarded with success.

Harry Goldsmith