Editorial

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The International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB) and Springer have joined forces to create a new review journal, *Biophysical Reviews*, as an official journal of the IUPAB. This is a challenging undertaking given the current exponential growth of published scientific papers that is overwhelming many of us in the field through a surfeit of information. Being well aware of this trend, the IUPAB has taken a step forward in dealing with this tsunami of scientific papers by launching a review journal in Biophysics.

Biophysical Reviews is dedicated to publishing **short** and **critical** reviews written by key figures in the field. The aim of the Editorial board is that the subjects covered in these reviews will—over the long term—be representative of the entire field of biophysics, generally defined as the science of describing and understanding biological phenomenon using the concepts and techniques of physics. In other words, biophysics is to physics as biochemistry is to chemistry. Reviews of research and developments in areas such as bioinformatics, biophysical methods and instrumentation, medical biophysics, biosystems, cell biophysics and organisation, macromolecules (dynamics, structures and interactions), membrane biophysics and channels and transportation are only a few of the subjects open to review in our desired format.

The reviews will be written by authors selected for their knowledge of the subject. In accordance with the aim of keeping the reviews both short and critical, each review is to be limited to 4000 words, or about eight or nine pages. The references are to be thoroughly assessable, and authors will

be encouraged to annotate them appropriately, as stated in the Guidelines to Authors (see <http://www.editorialmanager.com/brev/>; authors, references, specific remarks). These annotations are intended to reduce the length of main text itself and, thereby, reduce the time spent reading the review. A unambiguous referral to key references will orient the reader in the direction of other pertinent articles on the subject. In the short term, this feature will only be available through the online edition, but if this proves to be a successful innovation, it will also be incorporated into the printed edition. An important advantage of our new review journal is that all authors will be able to use colour pictures for their review articles free of charge.

As an indication of the interest for this journal within the international community of biophysicists, all 17 members of the IUPAB council, representing different countries on all continents, plus two former presidents of the IUPAB have agreed to become members of the Editorial Board. As Editor-in-Chief, I greatly appreciate their participation and enthusiastic response to my invitation to join the Board. I look forward to productive interactions with my fellow Board members and to their assistance in developing our new journal.

Biophysical Reviews is a joint venture between IUPAB and Springer. Both the authors and the editors will benefit from the professionalism of the Springer team and their electronic submission system for the manuscripts. I have already experienced extraordinary goodwill and excellent assistance from Springer in setting up this journal, and I would like to especially thank Dr. Sabine Schwarz, senior-editor of the Life Science section of Springer. It is with great pleasure and a good deal of excitement that I look forward to launching this important new venture in the field of biophysics and to watching it take shape.

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