Congratulatory Remarks for the *Biomedical Engineering Letters* (BMEL)

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Over the past few decades biomedical engineering has propelled forward as a major field of study throughout the world attracting a broad spectrum of students eager to learn and contribute to the development of technologies for betterment of people's health and well being.

I had the privilege of learning about Korean Society of Medical and Biological Engineering (KOSOMBE) a few years ago and I congratulate its leaders for their forward thinking to launch the *Biomedical Engineering Letters* and the appointment of Dr. SangHoon Lee as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal.

I have had the pleasure of knowing a number of your advisory board members as well as your editorial board members and have great respect for their scholarship. I trust they will shepherd the journal to the highest standards of quality in scientific publishing.

One the most exciting areas of research in biomedical engineering is biomedical optics or biophotonics. It is ripe with tremendous opportunities for discovery and innovation. While the use of lasers in ophthalmology, for example, are now commonly well known and have several well established

applications, commercial devices in other applications such as optical imaging and sensing are still in the discovery phase with plenty of opportunities for research. In the US National Science Foundation website, for example, you would find some of the important areas of research are listed as the development of molecular marker, low coherence sensing at the nanoscale, neurophotonics, micro- and nano-photonics, and optogenetics are some of the examples of areas of active research.

The research needs in biomedical optics are highly interdisciplinary requiring depth of knowledge in many areas including engineering, physics/optics, chemistry, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, and sophisticated mathematical and computational models and tools. I am hopeful that through your journal opportunities for contribution and exchange of novel ideas expand to a wider international reach and lead to collaboration among many experts learning from each other and further expanding the field and thereby significantly contributing to knowledge base and innovations for better life worldwide.

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*Disclaimer: These remarks are the opinion of Sohi Rastegar and do not represent the official view of the US National Science Foundation or the US Government.