Editorial

Effective with next month's issue (January, 2010), Kyriacos Athanasiou will take over as Editor-in-Chief of the *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*. It has been an honor for me to have served in that position for the Biomedical Engineering Society for the last eight years. Those years have been a tremendously exciting time for Biomedical Engineering, with the growing recognition of our colleagues as leaders in emerging areas such as nanomedicine, cellular engineering, systems biology, predictive health, and regenerative medicine. In addition, there have been exciting advances in more established fields such as medical devices, drug delivery, and artificial organs, with an increasing recognition within these industries of the value added by biomedical engineers and the strength of a biomedical engineering educational background as an excellent foundation for success.

These years have also led to significant growth for the *ABME* in both quantity and quality. When I took over the journal, its ISI Impact Factor was a little less than one and it published approximately 1200 pages a year. In 2009, it has an Impact Factor greater than 2.6 and will publish slightly over 2600 pages. Our special issues in areas such as Orthopedic Bioengineering, Cellular Engineering, and Nanotechnology have been very useful in generating this increase in citations. The selectivity has also gone up, as we now accept less than 40% of the articles submitted for publication. Our publisher for the last several years, Springer, has done

an excellent job in marketing *ABME* around the world and the *ABME* is now a source of significant funds for the BMES rather than a line item cost.

Another exciting development is the "spin-off" of sister journals for the *ABME*, the first being *Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering* with Ed Guo and David Odde as Co-Editors. The third BMES Journal, *Cardiovascular Engineering and Technology*, will launch this spring with Ajit Yoganathan as the Editor. We hope these journals will continue to grow and multiply in the *Nature* family model as Biomedical Engineering continues to grow in stature and importance as a field.

I would like to close by thanking all of my Associate Editors for all of their hard work over the years. These Associate Editors did most of the hard work, getting appropriate reviewers and making the sometimes difficult recommendations on acceptance. I would strongly urge all of us to submit our best work to the *ABME* and to say "yes" when Kyriacos and the new Associate Editors ask us to serve as reviewers. This is necessary for the *ABME* to continue to grow and prosper. With best wishes for the future.

LARRY V. MCINTIRE

Wallace H. Coulter Professor and Chair
Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory
University