EDITORIAL

It was an easy decision for me to agree to take over the reins of *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* (*PB&R*). After all, it is my favorite journal, and the skyrocketing number of submissions to the journal attests to its stature in the field (see Figure 1). I will do well if I can maintain the outstanding tradition for the journal established by my predecessors Henry L. Roediger III, John Wixted, and David A. Balota, and I will certainly give it my best effort.

Given that *PB&R* has become the flagship journal for the Psychonomic Society, and given its continued success, I do not plan any major changes in the journal's operation. The journal seeks to publish articles that make significant theoretical advances and that will be of broad interest to the community of experimental psychologists and researchers in related fields. *Articles should be written with a general readership in mind.*

In my view, *PB&R*'s current format of Theoretical and Review articles, Brief Reports, and Notes and Comments is a winning combination. Let me remind you what is expected from each of these types of contribution (for more details, see the journal Web site, www.psychonomic.org/PBR/).

Theoretical and Review articles present some major novel theory, provide a comprehensive review of some field of study, or advance some major new methodological ideas for taking the field in new directions. Although experiments are sometimes reported to support these primary goals, they are not intended to be the main focus of the contribution. Many high-quality journals are available for the publication of multiple-experiment articles, but such articles are not published in *PB&R*.

Brief Reports of experimental work are restricted to a maximum of 4,000 words. This word count includes the *main text*, *endnotes*, *references*, and *appendixes* but excludes title page, abstract, figures, and tables. Despite their short length, Brief Reports are expected to make substantial contributions to new knowledge and to be of broad interest to the general readership of the journal.

The journal will also continue to publish theoretical notes and comments on or replies to previously published articles.

We are taking some practical steps to allow the editorial board to deal with the skyrocketing number of submissions to the journal. One such step is that we are avoiding lengthy review processes that involve multiple re-revisions of articles. Also, articles that we immediately judge to be unsuitable are not being sent out for external review. We may miss some gems in the rough, and in an ideal scientific world an author could continue to revise and resubmit until the criterion for publication has been achieved. In the practical situation in which the journal currently finds itself, however, this idealistic goal cannot be reached. *Authors are urged to put their very top effort into their initial submissions.*

Submissions to the journal are now handled through the Web-based system Manuscript Central (as will be true for all Psychonomic Society journals in the near future). Although there are inevitable growing pains, the bottom line is that in our first year, the current editorial team has achieved a mean lag for initial decisions on new submissions of 50.4 days, which I think is quite good.

The journal is extremely fortunate to have an outstanding group of associate editors. Besides being leaders in their fields, their strong sense of responsibility and work ethic is helping the journal to maintain its extremely high quality. The associate editors, along with their affiliations and areas of concentration, are

Michael F. Brown, Villanova University; Comparative Cognition and Spatial Cognition
Thomas A. Busey, Indiana University Bloomington; Information Processing and Memory
Richard J. Gerrig, Stony Brook University; Psycholinguistics
Stephen D. Goldinger, Arizona State University; Spoken and Visual Word Recognition
Steven J. Luck, UC Davis; Attention and Perception

W. Trammell Neill, SUNY Albany; Attention and Perception
 Jay Pratt, University of Toronto; Attention and Performance
 Paul J. Reber, Northwestern University; Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory
 Gillian Rhodes, University of Western Australia; Face Perception and Visual Cognition
 Caren M. Rotello, University of Massachusetts Amherst; Memory
 Barbara A. Spellman, University of Virginia; High-Level Cognition

In addition to the areas listed above, my own concentrations are in math modeling and categorization. The listed areas of concentration are not comprehensive, and we encourage submissions on topics from all areas of psychological science that are of wide interest (see the journal Web site for examples).

We have also assembled an outstanding board of consulting editors for the journal (see the inside cover), and it is their extremely thoughtful, timely, and conscientious reviews that make the journal work.

I wish to acknowledge Rob Sanford, the administrative assistant for Psychonomic Society journals, for all the help that he has provided to me and for his outstanding performance. My thanks as well to Cinnamon Nemec, John Bellquist, and the staff of the Publications Office. Many thanks are also due Dave Balota and Susan Sergent-Marshall (the previous editorial assistant for *PB&R*), who continued to handle articles and to provide me with information regarding revisions throughout my first year as editor.

A current challenge for *PB&R* (and for other Psychonomic Society journals) is to reduce the lag between the time when an article is accepted and when the hard-copy version of the article appears in print. I am pleased to report that the Publications Office and the Publications Committee of the Psychonomic Society have instituted major steps to reduce this lag. I am confident that these steps will lead to significant improvements in meeting this challenge in the very near future.

On behalf of the associate editors, we look forward to maintaining the extremely high tradition that has been established for *PB&R* and to publishing the very best work in experimental psychology and psychological science.

Robert M. Nosofsky
Editor

Figure 1. Number of new submissions to *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* as a function of year. (The number for 2006 is as of December 14, 2006.)