Incoming Editor-in-Chief

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EDITORIAL

Incoming Editor-in-Chief

It is a great honor to have been selected to serve as the 12th Editor-in-Chief of Physics in Medicine and Biology (PMB). I look forward to the challenge of continuing the journal’s remarkable growth and impact as a leading international journal that covers the many important applications of physics in the setting of modern biomedical science.

To begin with, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of Professor Steve Webb, who has been Editor-in-Chief for the past six years. I have had the privilege of serving on the Editorial Board for his entire reign, and have witnessed first hand his commitment to the journal. His hallmarks of efficiency, calm and clear thinking, and insistence on quality have taken the journal to new heights. The journal now publishes more than 500 papers each year and, for the first time in its history, has an impact factor above 3. Steve will be sorely missed, and on behalf of the entire Editorial Board and Institute of Physics (IOP) Publishing staff we wish him a happy, healthy and productive retirement.

The main goals of your new Editor are likely to be no different to those of the preceding Editors. Our responsibility, which we take very seriously, is to solicit the best new science in our field from all around the world, review it rigorously, and to deliver the findings rapidly and accurately to our readers across the globe. While this responsibility does not change, the culture of scientific publishing is evolving at a rapid pace, and this presents both challenges and opportunities. How do we continue to reduce the time to publication while still maintaining our reputation for high quality through full and rigorous peer-review? How do we deal with the demand for open access? How do we embrace the increasingly global nature of scientific research in our field? How do we use modern technology to find innovative ways to
communicate scientific research and data to our readers that go well beyond the standard PDF file and printed page? These are just some of the many issues we will be addressing in the near future. I feel very fortunate to be able to draw on the expertise of an outstanding Editorial Board, as well as the very dedicated and professional staff at IOP Publishing, as we debate how we can best serve the scientific publishing interests of our strong and dynamic field.

Ultimately, however, the success of the journal depends on you—its authors and its reviewers. The journal is thriving because of the large number of high-quality submissions, and the incredible efforts of our reviewers to provide thorough, constructive and rapid evaluation of the manuscripts we receive. Our top-performing referees of 2011 will shortly receive a certificate in recognition of their hard work. I thank you in advance for your continued support of our journal and I look forward to working with you all to ensure that PMB meets your highest expectations and that it serves the needs of our scientific community.

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P.S. Whether you are an author, reviewer or reader of PMB, please do not hesitate to contact us with ideas and suggestions at pmb@iop.org.