

Editorial

It is customary, when an Editor-in-Chief retires, for a successor to outline a vision for the Journal during his or her forthcoming tenure. Before doing so I would like to pay tribute to the contribution of Dr Keith Frayn, the retiring Editor-in-Chief of the *British Journal of Nutrition*. Keith Frayn has been a pivotal figure in the evolution of the *BJN*, having instituted a number of key changes which have built on the work of his distinguished predecessors (beginning with the legendary Dr S. K. Kon). Foremost amongst the changes is the internationalization of the Editorial Board (with the addition of a subtitle to the Journal's name 'An International Journal of Nutritional Science'), the provision of the *BJN* on the *Web*, and the inclusion of invited commentaries, reviews and supplements. These changes reflect the strong desire for the *BJN* to be, and to be clearly seen to be, a truly international journal, international in its audience, and international in the origin of the work that it publishes. To this end the Editorial Board now draws the majority of its members from outside the UK, with one Deputy Editor from mainland Europe and one from North America.

The inclusion of commentaries, reviews and supplements has increased the variety of material within the *BJN*, and we hope, thereby, its appeal both to readers and authors. Keith Frayn has, of course, been ably supported by the Editorial Board, the Editorial Office, and by *CABI Publishing*, and each should be thanked for their support for the developments which have taken place.

A major priority for my term as Editor-in-Chief is to encourage the submission and publication of papers utilizing cutting edge concepts and techniques from the modern biological sciences. This is usually taken to mean molecular and cell biology, and related areas, but it extends beyond these specialities. Other fields in the forefront of biology which are of interest to the *BJN* include the neurosciences, as they relate to nutrition, as well as the rapidly emerging area of functional genomics and the application of methodologies such as proteomics and microarray technology. It is most important for nutrition to harness the opportunities inherent in the mainstream biological sciences, and the

contents of the *BJN* should reflect this. A desire to incorporate cutting edge biology should not, however, be seen to imply the exclusion of other areas of nutritional science. Nutrition is a catholic field with an integrative and multi-disciplinary perspective, and the *BJN* will continue to welcome papers across the full spectrum of the subject. Indeed, my concern is to further widen the scope of the journal within the overall remit of 'basic and applied studies in human and clinical nutrition, animal nutrition and general nutrition'.

All editors are concerned with the time taken for the review and publication process of a journal, and I am no exception to this. The attraction of a journal is linked to the efficiency and professionalism by which papers are processed, and the Editor-in-Chief and all those associated with the *BJN* are committed to handling manuscripts in an expeditious manner, but without undermining the reputation for quality which has been a hallmark of the publication. Every aspect of the way in which we handle papers will be appraised in order that we can best serve the international nutritional sciences community. Reviews, commentary articles and supplements will continue to be key features of the *BJN*, but our core material is primary papers submitted directly by authors. Speed of reviewing will be aided by the development of an internet-based referees' report form. Other issues to be addressed in the near future include the increasingly contentious question of copyright, and the provision of colour plates.

The future of nutritional science is very positive. We are determined that the *BJN*, with its distinguished history and traditions, should be a leading international journal, publishing the highest quality studies in nutritional science for the 21st century. I welcome your comments, either critical or commendatory.

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Editor-in-Chief
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