

Editorial

William Bonfield

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In 1990 it was my great pleasure to be the Founding Editor of *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine*. Now at the start of 2007, having become Emeritus Professor at the University of Cambridge, it is time for me to hand on the Editorial baton to my colleagues, Dr. Serena Best in Cambridge and Professor Josep Planell in Barcelona. I have greatly appreciated the support of Serena and Josep as Associate Editors. In their new role as Co-Editors, I am confident that they will continue to empower the upward trajectory of the Journal. To reinforce the editorial team, my final pleasant duty is to introduce Professor Anita Ignatius of the University of Ulm, who has joined the Journal as Associate Editor. Her particular expertise will complement that of Dr. Best and Professor Planell, and I wish her well in her new role.

The rationale for the launch of *Materials in Medicine* in 1990 came from my perception, as Editor of *Journal of Materials Science* at that time, that there would be a benefit in incorporating the physical rigour associated with a mainstream materials science journal into a companion biomaterials publication. It was also apparent that a broader context of interest was developing in biomaterials research that made the title of *Materials in Medicine* particularly apt, as it would allow an expansion of the traditional boundaries to embrace fully the biological and medical context. I am content that this approach has flourished, and that *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine* has developed a distinctive style in subsequent years, which has made it an attractive publication route for the community.

A special aspect of the Journal since its foundation has been the close association with the European Society for Bio-

materials (ESB). This synergy has been a point of strength, particularly in our publication of selected papers from the Annual ESB Conference on Biomaterials in a special issue. It has been my good fortune to have excellent relationships with various Presidents of the ESB, culminating in the exceptional benefit of interaction with Professor James Kirkpatrick, the current incumbent.

During this seventeen-year period, the publication of the Journal has changed smoothly from Chapman and Hall, through progressively larger publishing houses, to the current publisher, Springer. In these transitions, the Journal has always been extremely well served by the editorial staff in the respective publishers, to whom I am very grateful. In my personal office, Catherine Jones was very supportive during my time in London, while since my move to Cambridge, Christine Carey has also been a tower of strength in supporting the Journal and liaising with the publication staff in the USA.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board and the many authors, referees and readers from around the world, with whom I have worked and corresponded over the years. Like you, I am confident that biomaterials will continue to underpin the progress of regenerative medicine, and that there is much exciting research in store to be published. I have every confidence that the *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Medicine* has both the academic leadership and editorial mechanisms in place to be able to contribute to this process. As Chairman of the Editorial Board, I shall continue to assist the Journal and look forward to its continuing success.

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