**A message from the JBC Editor**

**The Centennial Celebration at the ASBMB Annual Meeting in San Francisco was an outstanding event and I hope many of you were able to attend.**

This newsletter is to recap important discussions that took place at the Associate Editors’ Meeting and the Editorial Board Orientation sessions.

It is essential that Editorial Board members understand the underlying policies and procedures of the JBC review process and this is why we have the Orientation Session, Editorial Board meeting, and follow-up Newsletter.

Suggestions and questions are welcome anytime from our Board Members. The Journal could not be the success that it is without all your outstanding contributions.

*Herbert Tabor htabor@asbmb.org*

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**New Associate Editors**

With the increasing diversity of papers we receive and the increase in workload over the past 5 years, we have added 10 new Associate Editors to better handle submitted manuscripts. Prior to the increase, Associate Editors averaged over 700 manuscripts each year.

**Dale John Benos**
**George Carman**
**Martha Fedor**
**Joel M. Gottesfeld**
**Peter Guengerich**
**John Kyriakis**
**Luke O’Neill**
**James N. Siedow**
**Linda Sprenulli**
**Xiao-Fan Wang**

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**Board Members Please Please Update Your Profiles**

PLEASE, PLEASE update your profiles. Your profile is how editors are selected. Your areas of expertise and interests must be clearly outlined. For many of you that have served several terms… please review your current profile because it may need to be updated. Go to [http://www.jbc.org/editor](http://www.jbc.org/editor).

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**$60 Submission Fee**

The Journal of Biological Chemistry will institute new $60 submission fee starting July 1, 2006, in accordance with a decision made by the ASBMB Council.

The peer review process is very expensive; the papers that are declined by review have been subsidized by the papers that are published. As we continue to have more papers to review, we feel it is time to charge for the extensive process of reviewing manuscripts. While $60 does not begin to cover the entire review process, it will help maintain the financial viability of the JBC and yet maintain our policy of free access to everyone.

The submission fee will be payable through an online transaction at the time of submission. Corresponding authors will be required to pay the fee by credit card at a secure site when they complete the online manuscript submission process. As with page charges, waivers of the fee will be allowed in cases of demonstrated financial need.
Change in Editorial Policies: An Update

At the April 2005 Editorial Board meeting we initiated new editorial policies:
- Accept only papers in top 15% of a field
- Associate Editors get two reviews for most papers
- Increased rejection of papers that are guideline violations without a full review
- Usually limited to one revision

After one year with the new policies in effect, we have monitored the consequences of these changes. The number of papers receiving two reviews has increased from 21% in 1994 to 85% in 1995. As can be seen in Figure 1, the acceptance rate has dropped from about 40% to about 30% since April 2005 reflecting, we believe, greater stringency in the review process. In addition, the number of manuscript submissions has dropped about 6% from 2004 to 2005 (see Figure 2). The number of papers declined without a full review as guideline violations has increased from 6% in 2004 to 22% in 2005.

While these are positive changes resulting from the new policies, there have also been negative changes as well. Obtaining two reviews has increased the work load of the Editorial Board. The data presented in Figure 3A and 3B show the number of manuscripts handled by Editorial Board members before and after the two-reviews/paper policy. In 2004, the average number of papers handled by a Board member was about 1.9/month. In 2005, the average is about 2.9. In addition, the average time to a first decision has increased from 24 days to 28 days as shown in Figure 4.

To mitigate against the negative effects of the policy changes we have expanded the size of the Board. In Figure 5 is presented the size of the Board from 1970 to 2006. For 2006, there will be 720 Board members and a net increase of about 100 members over 2005. We expect the number of submissions to continue to drop as authors become more self selective and we expect that the number of papers declined as guideline violations will continue to increase. We expect and hope that all these factors will reduce the review burden of Board members.

See complete guidelines at: http://www.jbc.org/misc/edpolicy.shtml
**JBC Centennial Celebration**

The ASBMB Annual meeting this year celebrated the centennial for both the *JBC* and ASBMB. The growth of *JBC* in size and popularity over 100 years is demonstrated by the annual number of pages published from the first full year, 1906 (828), through 2005 (43,280). See graph below. The prestige of the Journal has grown as well as shown below as *JBC* continues to be the most highly cited journal on earth.

### ISI Total Citations (2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Citations</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>JBC</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Nature</em></td>
<td>363,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>PNAS</em></td>
<td>345,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Science</em></td>
<td>332,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Cell</em></td>
<td>136,000</td>
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</table>

In commemoration of the *JBC* Centennial, we have published Volume 1 of *JBC Classics and Reflections*. *JBC Classics* are a collection of landmark papers published in the *JBC* over the past 100 years. *JBC Reflections* are articles written by notable biochemists reflecting on their careers. Both Classics and Reflections are works in progress and we expect a volume 2 in the next few years.

Both Classics and Reflections have proven to be very popular as many biochemists have been using them for teaching. Volume 1 has been sent to all ASBMB members as a gift from the Society for the Centennial. Additional copies are available from the Society for $20 plus shipping by going to the Centennial Store link at www.asbmb.org.

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**“Publish or Perish”**

One of the more unusual events at the ASBMB Centennial meeting was a skit entitled “Publish or Perish”. It was an adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan’s popular comic opera “The Mikado”. The words were written by John Exton, *JBC* Associate Editor, and the music was adapted by Jack Preiss, a previous member of the Editorial Board. The theme was that of a much-rejected author who encounters discouragement at the hands of the *JBC* Editorial Board, an Associate Editor, the Editor-in-Chief, the Deputy Editor and the Lord High Copy Editor, all roles based on the original opera.

There was a happy ending when the author was mentored by a famous Nobel laureate (Edmond Fischer) and was finally able to publish in the *JBC*.

Jack sang the role of the sad rejected author and John narrated the proceedings. Additionally, three Presidents of the ASBMB (Betty Sue Masters, Judith Bond, and Heidi Hamm) sang and danced the parts of the “Three Presidents” (originally “Three Little Maids”) to the delight of the audience. The final chorus celebrated the Centennial Year of the ASBMB and *JBC*.

The supporting singers were from the Savoyards of Stanford University and the producer was Rita Taylor, also from Stanford. The performers had a great deal of fun and the audience applauded their efforts enthusiastically. If you would like a copy of the program please e-mail nrodnan@asbmb.org.

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**JBC Online Usage**

This graph contains overall statistics from HighWire Press. Only images with a .jpg suffix are included.
Journal Ratings... it’s not just Impact Factor anymore

PageRank is a journal quality/prestige ranking metric and uses Google methodology to determine the importance of a journal.

As can be seen in the Table below, ISI Impact Factor heavily weigh review journals, while PageRank ranks primary research journals and JBC ranks second of 5,800 journals that were ranked. Y-factor combines Impact Factor and PageRank and JBC again ranks very highly. For more information see Nature 439, 16 February 2006.

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The cover design has been a great success; however, there were some excellent suggestions for fine tuning the text. A subcommittee met and reviewed sample pages prepared by CADMUS. The following changes to the text will be made in future issues once sample pages have been approved:

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- Figures—Some discretion will be allowed for 1-column figure sizing, and wrapped text for 1½ column figures.
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Did you get your special Editorial Board T-shirt?
If you did not attend the meeting and would like a T-shirt please email bmiller@asbmb.org

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Thank you Dunk Booth volunteers!: Norma Allewell  David Russell  Robert Simoni  William Smith  Jim Siedow

JBC Newsletter
EDITOR Nancy Rodnan
For information, or to make suggestions, send an e-mail to nrodnan@asbmb.org or call (301) 634-7381

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