

MEDICAL & BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

EDITOR IN CHIEF'S REPORT

1. Summary

The journal remains healthy with good submission rates. The number of papers received in 2002 has been the highest ever, plus a record for cellular engineering papers. The year 2003 has so far followed the same trend. As already noted, the Impact Factor has doubled since 1996.

2. MBEC Submissions

Submissions

A record number of papers was received in 2002. This increased submission rate shows no signs of abating.

Acceptance rate

The acceptance rate for papers received in 2001 was 47%. If all the remaining six papers currently being revised from the calendar year 2002 (110 papers already accepted) are also accepted, then the maximum acceptance rate would be 46%. We hope this encourages the submission of top quality papers.

Time to first decision

Editorial decisions on *MBEC* papers are made in under three months for over 90% of papers. First decisions have been made on all *MBEC* papers received before May 2003.

Time to publication

Approximately 65% of papers are published within nine months of first receipt. Nearly all are published within a year.

In the November 2002 issue, all 12 papers were first received in or later than January 2002; they were in their final form between April 2002 and October 2002. Of the 14 papers in the January 2003 issue, all but one was first received in or after March 2002; they were received in their final form between July and September 2002. In the 18 paper March issue, papers were first received in or after March 2002 and in their final form between September and December 2002. In the May 2003 issue (18 papers), all but one was received in or after May 2002 and in their final form between October 2002 and January 2003. Of the 18 papers in the July 2003 issue, all but two were received in or after July 2002; they were received in their final form between January and March 2003.

Subject reviews

Three reviews have been published in 2003:

- Critical review of non-invasive respiratory monitoring in medical care (M Folke, L Cernerud, M Ekström, B Hök).
- Bioengineering insulin-secreting cells from embryonic stem cells. How far are we? (E Roche, P Sepulcre, R Enseñat-Waser, I Maestre, J A Reig, B Soria).
- Large-scale expansion of mammalian neural stem cells: a review (M S Kallos, A Sen, L A Behie).

3. Cellular Engineering submissions

Submissions

Cellular engineering papers have been incorporated in *MBEC* as a separate section since the beginning of 1998.

After a lean period for cellular engineering papers in the years 2000 and 2001, the year 2002 saw a significant submission improvement which has continued into 2003 (see Item 10. Special Issues). Four scientific papers have been published in both the March and May 2003 issues, with a further two in July.

Two of the three reviews published in 2003 were in cellular engineering.

Submission rate

The submission rate has clearly picked up considerably. Professor Åke Öberg has managed to get an increased number of submissions; the restructuring of the IFMBE Working Group, chaired by Professor Gerhard Artmann (Department of Cell Biophysics and Bioengineering, University of Applied Sciences, Aachen) has also helped.

4. Journal issues

The majority of papers published fall into the category of 'Scientific Paper', with between 15 and 20 papers per issue.

5. Impact factor

The Impact Factor has more than doubled in six years and has stayed at or above 1.00 for the past four years.

It is worth noting that the cited half life has lain between 8 and 10 years for many years, which means *MBEC* is well read and cited. However, only 10% of citations in any year are to the two previous *MBEC* years, and hence only these 10% contribute to our impact factor. We need bioengineers to read *MBEC* when it is published and not wait until it is cited by others.

6. Subject Indexes

The Subject Indexes for *MBEC* are available on the worldwide web at <http://www.iee.org/Publish/Journals/ProfJourn/MBEC> by clicking on "subject index". The Subject Index in booklet form for papers published in *MBEC* for 2002 is sent out to all authors and referees.

7. Free access to the on-line version of MBEC

The on-line version of *MBEC* is available. Those who subscribe this year also have access to previous years and now includes 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The June 2001 meeting of the IFMBE Administrative Council decided to encourage as many IFMBE members as possible to use the on-line version of *MBEC*. It was hoped that this marketing strategy would continue to increase the visibility of *MBEC*, and hence also increase library subscriptions. It was made available free in 2002 for individuals who registered on the IFMBE web site. The publisher agreed to continue the free access throughout 2003. The effect of access to the on-line *MBEC* is being assessed.

8. Marketing

The publishers are now regularly providing publicity material for all IFMBE conferences. We aim to establish a single contact person for each conference. There was a delay in getting an agreement to include *MBEC* material in delegate packs for the Sydney World Congress.

The Editor lectured on *MBEC* and gave much informal advice at the Singapore meeting (International Congress on Biological and Medical Engineering, ²December 2002). The journal leaflet was in all delegate packs and sample journals were available. There was a simultaneous IFMBE Conference in Vienna, December 2002. Biomedical engineering papers from the Sydney, August 2003, World Congress on

Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (invited and contributed) will be considered by the Editor for publication in *MBEC*.

A report on marketing, provided by Robin Mellors-Bourne, is attached.

9. Medline

The current version of Medline includes papers up to the May 2003 issue of *MBEC*. *MBEC* is also cited in PubMed and other databases.

10. Referees

Referees are becoming increasingly busy and we are always on the look out for new referees. If you know anyone who would like to be a reviewer for *MBEC*, please email me at mbec@nuth.northy.nhs.uk together with their categories of expertise (e-form available on request). A paper version of the form is attached to this report.

11. Special Issues

Notes on guidance to editors of Special Issues have been prepared and circulated. The following Special Issues are in varying stages of production:

- Bio-optics: Åke Öberg, editor (to mark his retirement from his post at the University of Linköping)
The Bio-optics Special Issue had four papers published (out of six submitted) in the May 2003 issue.
- Biomechanical Interactions in Tissue Engineering and Surgical Repair. This is a Special Cellular Engineering Theme Issue from the European Union project (BITES): Alicia el Haj and Åke Öberg, editors
Six papers have been submitted: four are at the revision stage, one accepted for publication and one rejected.
- ✂ Modelling and Simulation in Biomedical systems (MEDICON).
Seven papers have been submitted: two have been rejected, three are being revised, two have been accepted for publication.
- ✂ Preliminary discussions are underway concerning a special issue on the European project: Neuromuscular Assessment of the Elderly - associated with ergonomics and occupational medicine.

12. Deputy Editor

Professor Åke Öberg has now retired as Deputy Editor. I again wish to record my thanks for the help and support of Åke Öberg.

Alan Murray,
Editor in Chief

Marketing report from Robin Mellors-Bourne, Director of Publishing

1. Lists of subscribers

We have the standard lists from the system (once we show you the codes used for *MBEC*); these give full addresses and some historical information. With some excel work we can sort this into something your IFMBE regional reps can use to assess which key institutions are not on the list.

2. Lists of non-renewals

As above, but these are shorter lists of those that subscribed last year but have not done so this year. Again we can combine lists into one which is useable as above.

3. Overall numbers/income vs. previous period

At the end of June, I received the first reliable report of this type, although correlation against former years (which were not 100% reliable) needs a little work. This tells us how many of each type of subscription we have in summary form -- the system was mixing up IFMBE member vs. institutional subscription etc in the past.

4. Data from the online trial

The area which is hardest to tackle is the data from the online trial (we need to correlate our usage records -- we only know the IP addresses -- with the people/places that received the passwords).

We are aiming to derive a list of the institutions from which the most trial usage came. At a later stage we can generate a much bigger list with the moderate/light users etc. The best outcomes will only be derived when we have a new online journal platform, planned for next year, when we can perhaps start to offer more flexibility in terms of an online price for IFMBE members.

MBEC (Medical & Biological Engineering & Computing) Referee database – please complete, marking areas of expertise, and return to mbec@nuth.northy.nhs.uk (e-version available on request)

<u>BODY</u>	<u>TECHNIQUES</u>	<u>APPLICATION</u>
Ankle	Acoustics	Activity monitoring
Arm	APT	Balance
Blood	Biomaterials	Cardiac pacing
Blood vessel	Biomechanics	Cellular engineering
Bone	CT	Defibrillators
Brain	Dialysis	ECG
Breast	Electrical	EEG
Cell	Electrical impedance	Electrical instrumentation
Colon / intestine	Evoked response	EMG
Ear	Flow	Functional electrical stimulation
Eye	Imaging	Hearing
Face	Laser	Heart modelling – electrical
Fetus	Light	Heart modelling – mechanical
Foot	Magnetic	Image processing
Hair	MRI	MCG
Hand	Oxygenator	Mechanical instrumentation
Head	PET	MEG
Heart	Pressure	Pathology
Hip	Radioisotope	Prosthesis
Kidney	Sound	Safety
Knee	Stimulation	Sight
Leg	Thermal	Speech
Liver	Ultrasound	System modelling
Lung	X-ray	Thermograph
Mouth		Tissue engineering
Muscle		
Nerve		
Oesophagus		
Reproductive organ		
Skin		
Spine		
Stomach		
Teeth		
Tissue		

Referee expertise / training:

Computing	Engineering	Laboratory	Mathematics	Medical	Physics	Technical
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Other relevant information:

Name
 Email
 Full postal address