

# EDITORIAL



Dear Colleagues,

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently met to review the *Journal of Biomedical Optics*. NLM uses an advisory committee composed of experts in the field of biomedicine and biomedical research to consider journals for indexing. I am pleased and excited to announce that JBO has been recommended for full indexing and inclusion in Index Medicus and MEDLINE!

Of course, this success is because of you: our contributors, reviewers, subscribers, and editorial board members. Thank you for your participation in the journal. Special thanks to our founding editor, Joe Lakowicz, and the editorial team at SPIE. We are now fully indexed in all electronic databases, including MEDLINE, Index Medicus, and the Institute for Scientific Information (e.g., Current Contents, Science Citation Index). Please spread the word. We need increased submissions to grow to bimonthly... and eventually monthly.

The importance of biomedical optics has never been greater. As our enterprise grows, a new formalism emerges that invokes principles of tissue optics, computational methods, light-tissue interactions, and optical biology. In the past, difficult-to-find publications that covered this broad collection of knowledge and ideas spanned multiple disciplines, journals, and scientific societies. Fortunately, JBO now unifies these concepts and serves as the only peer-reviewed publication dedicated to presenting biomedical optics topics in a comprehensive, integrated and rigorous manner.

The *Journal of Biomedical Optics* was founded by SPIE in 1996. JBO is the official publication of the International Biomedical Optics Society (BIOS), one of the several technical groups within the 14,000-member parent SPIE organization. JBO was formed with overwhelming support from a large community of scientists, engineers, and clinicians working in the area of optical methods in biology and medicine. JBO differs from other journals dealing with lasers and optics in medicine because its content is more heavily weighted toward new science and engineering principles rather than large-scale clinical research. We are particularly proud of our abil-

ity to publish papers that present fundamentally sound diagnostic and therapeutic techniques, as well as provide novel applications of these methods to biological systems.

JBO is fueled by the youth and enthusiasm of a rapidly expanding field. The last few years have witnessed explosive growth in academic units at major international universities, housed in departments ranging from biomedical engineering to physics, radiology, and electrical engineering, that now count biomedical optics as part of their formal didactic training. The partnership between JBO and academic programs such as these allows us to train the next generation of biomedical optics students and scientists.

Biomedical optics technologies continue to advance at a dizzying rate, contributing to the growth of novel devices that impact healthcare in virtually all medical specialties. In addition, few basic biological sciences are not touched by biomedical optics, since optical methods play a critical role in biotechnologies ranging from genomics and proteomics to cellular assays. One of the goals of JBO, therefore, is to be the primary source for reporting these discoveries in detail. This substantially broadens our target audience and gives the medical research community an opportunity to learn key basic principles that can trigger new advances.

In summary, I believe the journal is thriving and fulfilling the need for which it was created. We are committed to maintaining and enhancing our status as the world's premier archival publication describing applications of advanced optical technologies to medicine and biomedical research. The indexing of JBO in Index Medicus/MEDLINE will certainly play a critical role in our effort to optimize the impact of biomedical optics on public health. One of our most important tasks for the future is to provide a framework for communicating the exceptional interdisciplinary vitality of our field to the broader community, and make JBO one of the premier journals in biomedical research.

**Bruce J. Tromberg**  
Editor-in-Chief