



Editorial

As the new editor, my first job is to put together a suitable editorial board. I hope that as many as possible of the existing board will be willing to continue to serve and, at the same time, I aim to increase the size of the board. As you will see from this issue, there are some new names on the list and I hope that by the next issue the new board will be fully in place.

These are very exciting times for mathematical biology. The remarkable advances in biotechnology over the past three decades have resulted in the generation of a vast amount of experimental data. It is increasingly recognised that, in most cases, to make sense of and understand this data requires the development and analysis of mathematical and computational models. This is perhaps the greatest intellectual challenge that we face this century. It is a challenge that is capturing the imagination of more and more people, particularly the younger generation, who are the life blood of any field. For example, I am writing this as we approach the end of a four-month program entitled, 'From Individual to Collective Behaviour in Biological Systems', run at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK. Of the 238 participants, over 1/5 were in the 22–30 age group and nearly 75 percent were under 40. Furthermore, several participants at this program were experimentalists actively engaged in collaborative research with theoreticians.

Recently, a number of centres have been set up for interdisciplinary modelling in the Life Sciences, and other funding initiatives are in place. More and more faculty positions in mathematical biology are being advertised, reflecting the increasing demand for teaching and research collaboration in this area. This also confirms the great insight shown by those who set up this particular journal many years ago. I look forward to receiving your papers and working with you to continue to keep this journal at the forefront of the field.

With warm regards,

PHILIP K. MAINI