

Editorial

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The last year has been a very busy one for the BMB. We have published 140 articles online, which is over twice the publication rate of the previous year. This reflects the increase in the submission rates and Springer's view that papers should be published online as quickly as possible. In addition, the entire archive of the Bulletin of Mathematical Biology is now available on the Springer website for the journal, digitized back to Vol. 1, No. 1, published in 1939.

You will, no doubt, be aware that the transition from Elsevier to Springer caused a delay in processing papers and understandable frustration for authors (and Editor). We apologise for that. However, you will also have noticed that the past few issues of the journal have been extremely large (including a couple of bumper issues at the end of the year) indicating that we are getting rid of the backlog and are now on track again. An indication of this is that there are now, on average, 6700 articles downloaded a month from the BMB!

In an editorial of January 2006, it was mentioned that to honour the enormous contribution that Lee Segel made to the BMB and the field of mathematical biology as a whole, Springer, in partnership with the Society of Mathematical Biology, is funding a series of prizes. We now have the details of these.

There will be a prize of 5,000 dollars for the best original research paper published (awarded every 2 years), a prize of 3,000 dollars for the best student research paper (awarded every 2 years), and a prize of 4,000 dollars for the best review paper (awarded every 3 years). It is therefore important when a paper is submitted that the authors indicate if the first author is a student. We would also like referees to indicate if they feel that a paper they are reviewing should be considered for a prize.

A committee appointed by the SMB Board of Directors and the Editor-in-Chief will be set up to judge and award prizes, taking on board advice of referees and referee reports. All articles accepted from January 2006 will be considered. The first winners of the best original paper and best student paper will be announced at the SMB meeting in 2008. The winner of the best review paper will be announced at the SMB meeting in 2009.

It is perhaps also a good time to announce that coming soon to "a computer screen near you" is Editorial Manager, Springer's online submission and peer review tool. This should be in operation early in 2007 so please consult the webpage www.springer.com/11538 for forthcoming information.

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