



Foreword

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You have on your computer screen or in your hand the first issue of the International Journal of Bioelectromagnetism, IJBEM, published by the International Society for Bioelectromagnetism, ISBEM. This new journal will certainly raise some questions such as: Why a new journal? Surely there are enough scientific journals already? What will this new journal present that existing journals do not already cover?

The ISBEM decided at its annual meeting in February 1998 in Melbourne, that the Society will examine the possibility of establishing a new scientific journal which will be published on the World Wide Web. The background for this decision was that the existing scientific journals have the following important shortcomings: Firstly, the publication time for scientific articles is long, often exceeding one year. Secondly, the publication costs of traditional printed journals are so high that libraries are reluctant to subscribe them, to say the least for the scientists who find them far too expensive to be subscribers. Therefore, the availability of the traditional journals to every interested scientist is limited. A journal on the Web, provided with an efficient Web and e-mail based reviewing process, should overcome these deficiencies and enhance the distribution and availability of scientific information throughout the worldwide scientific community.

In content, the IJBEM is a traditional scientific journal. Its main mission is to publish original articles in the discipline of bioelectromagnetism. High quality review articles are also welcome. All manuscripts will go through a review process made by scientists highly competent in the manuscript's topic. The aim of the editorial policy of the IJBEM is to become a highly competitive scientific journal through high quality articles, fast publishing process, excellent availability to the readers and frequently being referred to in articles in other journals. The Web also brings new modalities for scientific publishing such as direct links to other sources of information, full colour and even animated illustrations and fast search of information in the electronic archives.

In addition to the regular issues of original scientific articles, the IJBEM will also include issues on special topics. This first issue is a special topic issue including articles on modern EEG and its use in connection with MRI. The IJBEM will also publish supplements such as proceedings on conferences or symposia on bioelectromagnetism, high quality collections of summer school lectures as well as monographs, which will interest a wide audience.

It is our wish that the members of the scientific community of bioelectromagnetism finds this new journal valuable and useful and will welcome it, both as authors and as readers.

Jaakko Malmivuo
Editor in Chief

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