

## Editorial

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# 50 years of *Biorheology*

It all began in 1963, when Alfred Lewin Copley (1910–1992) and George William Scott-Blair (1902–1987) founded a new journal, *Biorheology*, and Pergamon Press published the first issue. Today, we are celebrating, as the first issue of volume 50 of *Biorheology* is about to see the light of day.

It was Al Copley who in 1948 first introduced the word biorheology to describe the rheology of biological systems, and later in 1952, the word hemorrheology to describe the study of blood and blood vessels in the living organism. He also founded the International Society of Hemorrheology in 1966 that held its first Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland at which the society's Poiseuille medal was awarded to Robin Fåhræus. The Society changed its name to the International Society of Biorheology (ISB) in 1969 at the second Congress held in Heidelberg. Since then there have been 14 congresses of the ISB in Europe (France, Germany and Hungary), in Asia (China, Israel, Japan and Turkey) and in North America (Canada and USA). Since the 9th Congress of the ISB at Big Sky, Montana, the meetings have been held jointly with the International Conference of Hemorrheology. *Biorheology* has published the program and the abstracts of all 6 of these joint meetings. The next meeting of the two societies will be held in Seoul, South Korea in July 2015.

When Al Copley passed away in 1992, Alex Silberberg at the Weizmann Institute, in Rehovot, Israel became Executive Editor-in-Chief with Pedro Verdugo in Seattle as Co-Editor-in-Chief. Sadly, Alex Silberberg passed away in 1993, and I was asked to join Pedro Verdugo as Co-Editor-in-Chief for two years. Then, in 1995, I became the sole Executive Editor-in-Chief of the journal and the editorial office moved to the Montreal General Hospital Research Institute in the McGill University Medical School. After retiring from my professorship in 2006, I moved to Ottawa where I have lived since.

After the demise of Pergamon Press in 1993, *Biorheology* was taken over by Elsevier Science for 4 years until 1998. Then, beginning with volume 35, IOS Press in Amsterdam became and remains our publisher. Looking back over the past 20 years, it has been a very rich experience and a privilege to be in contact with many readers, editors, reviewers and authors. I am grateful to Pamela Lilley, the Editorial Assistant who has carefully and accurately kept track of all papers submitted as well as all correspondence, and frequently reminded me what needs to be done. I am also grateful to Marleen Berfelo, Head of the Journal Department at IOS Press, who is always ready to help and give advice. I am most grateful to the reviewers who have helped to raise and maintain a high scientific standard. The large number (over 350 reviewers) that we have used reflects the diversity of the subject matter that authors have brought to the journal. Much of this diversity has been made possible through the enormous advances in molecular biology and biophysics, in optical techniques and in electronic computing and computers on the web. As Pedro Verdugo wrote in *Aims and Editorial Policy*:

“The aim of biorheological research is to determine and characterize the dynamics of physiological processes at all levels of organization. Manuscripts should report original theoretical and/or experi-

mental research promoting the scientific and technological advances in a broad field that ranges from the rheology of macromolecules and macromolecular arrays to cell, tissue and organ rheology”.

It is my hope that in this, the 50th volume and in subsequent volumes, the journal will actively engage in publishing articles in the forefront of the rheology and mechanics of biological systems, animal, human and plant, from the point of view of understanding their structural and functional properties. Please feel free to give us your feedback on the journal and what subjects we should be publishing, in letters to the Editor.

Harry Goldsmith  
*Editor-in-Chief*