

Editorial

We are now completing our fourth year of the *Journal of Applied Biomechanics (JAB)*, and this is my final issue as Editor. When I assumed the editorial responsibilities of the *International Journal of Sport Biomechanics (IJSB)* in 1991, one of my major goals was to expand the journal to support the growing diversification within the field of biomechanics. Many contributors to the journal, including myself, began their careers in sport biomechanics but found, as a result of interdisciplinary research, that their interests in movement science went beyond the single application to sport. The purpose of *IJSB* was to provide a place for sport biomechanics researchers to publish their work, and the founding editor, Dick Nelson, is to be commended for spending a great deal of time and effort in that regard. However, because our field is changing, a journal with a broader domain became necessary.

After many discussions with Human Kinetics and with the support of my expanded Editorial Board, *JAB* began in 1993. I envisioned at that time a journal much like the *Journal of Applied Physiology*: one with several subdisciplines (always with biomechanics as the focus) and with applications to many related fields (e.g., musculoskeletal modeling, rehabilitation, motor control). We still serve sport, and in fact, sport has continued to dominate the published articles (approximately 80%), but articles in related areas are now invited by the journal. Submissions went from 33 in 1991 to 87 in 1994. We now average 65–75 submissions per year. Despite rejection rates of 52% in 1993, 48% in 1994, and 57% in 1995, the unfortunate consequence of the almost threefold increase in submissions was a backlog of papers ready for publication at Human Kinetics. The number of journal pages per issue was eventually extended and the backlog is no longer a problem. The journal continues to grow and will continue to seek articles focused on the application of principles in biomechanics to central questions in our discipline and to related fields of interest. For example, I have accepted for publication a target article by Gerrit van Ingen Schenau et al., entitled, "Does Elastic Energy Enhance Work and Efficiency in the Stretch-Shortening Cycle?," a question of interest to many in our field. We will publish the "target" paper and several invited responses in a single issue with additional responses to be found in subsequent issues.

Dr. Mark Grabiner will succeed me as editor of the *Journal of Applied Biomechanics* and has already taken steps to continue to expand the journal. Mark has many interests and applies his energy to many applications within the field of biomechanics, and he will do an excellent job as editor. I am convinced that the journal will continue to grow and serve the varied needs of our profession.

I would like to thank all who served on my Editorial Board as well as those who spent a great deal of time and energy reviewing papers for the journal. As a result of their work the journal has continued to improve in quality and quantity of articles. The ultimate reason any journal succeeds is because good scientific papers are submitted, receive top-quality reviews, and are published in a timely fashion. Some of the delays we have seen in our review and publication schedule have been due to the rapid expansion of the journal.

At this time, however, we are in a very stable period and invite new papers in applied biomechanics. The journal is designed to serve the biomechanics community in all fields of interest and to provide a central place, focused on biomechanics, for investigators to publish their work. I trust it will continue to do that.

It has been my pleasure to serve as editor of the *Journal of Applied Biomechanics*.

Robert J. Gregor