

## The International Union of Physiological Sciences IUPS Editorial IV

One of the principal aims of IUPS is to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge in the field of physiological sciences. This is mainly done by supporting and organizing meetings, in particular the International Congresses of Physiological Sciences, by co-sponsoring—together with the American Physiological Society (APS)—the journal *Physiology*, and by our website.

This summer, after our last editorial appeared (1), the 2006 Impact Factors (IF) were announced, and we were delighted to learn that the IF for *Physiology* had risen steeply and spectacularly to an all-time high of 6.288 and that *Physiology* is now ranked as no. 3, with respect to IF, of all physiological journals. We congratulate Walter Boron and his editorial team on this wonderful and very well deserved result, which will do much to enhance the reputation of both APS and IUPS. Although the steepness of the rise of *Physiology* with respect to IF was particularly impressive, the new IF results were generally good for the physiological sciences. *Physiological Reviews*, consistently the top scorer in the physiology grouping, moved into the top 10 of all scientific journals, and there was a very significant increase in the IF for *Pflügers Archiv—European Journal Physiology*, now under the very dynamic editorship of Bernd Nilius. We also noted healthy rises in IFs for several *AJP* journals as well as for *Annual Review of Physiology*. Since it is by no means the general trend that IFs in various subject areas increase with time, these good results for the physiological journals could be a sign of the long-awaited revival of our subject. However, it will of course be important to see whether this upward trend is sustained over the coming years.

We hope and expect that the generally strong performance of the physiological journals will also be reflected in a spectacular 37th International IUPS Congress in Kyoto in 2009. In our last editorial (1), we wrote in some detail about the preparatory work that is now going on and mentioned the call for symposia proposals from the international physiological community. We are very pleased now to report that Yoshihisa Kurachi, the Chair of the International Scientific Program Committee (ISPC), received more than 150 proposals for the 42 slots available. This certainly shows a healthy interest and is currently providing a lot of work for the ISPC!

As mentioned in an earlier editorial (2), IUPS aims to increase its interface with the major regional physiological organizations. One of these is the Federation of European Physiological Societies (FEPS), which held its 2007 meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia in September, this time in collaboration with the Slovak Physiological Society and The Physiological Society (UK). IUPS was prominently signposted at this event since the IUPS Lecture was scheduled as part of the Opening Ceremony. At this meeting, Hans Hultborn (Denmark) completed his term of office as FEPS President. The new President, Ulrich Pohl (Germany), faces important challenges, because European physiology is still too fragmented. Although the FEPS Congress in Bratislava was scientifically successful, the attendance (~500) was lower than it should have been. The problem is that there are (too?) many individual national physiological meetings but still no forum where the majority of active European physiologists regularly get together. Unless all the major European physiological societies could agree

to dispense with their own national meeting at regular intervals, for example every second year, and in these years make the FEPS Congress their national meeting, this situation will not improve. Given the long and distinctive histories of many of the individual European physiological societies, this may not prove an easy task!

As reported in our last editorial (1), the resignation of John Hall as IUPS Treasurer and the subsequent election of Malcolm Gordon, who already was a member of the IUPS Council, to this post resulted in a vacancy on the Council, and we are pleased to report here the election of Marjan Rupnik, Chair of Physiology at Maribor University in Slovenia. Marjan has kindly agreed to be the principal IUPS Communications Officer and has already improved the IUPS website considerably (see <http://www.iups.org>). The redesigned website not only has a more attractive appearance but now also contains several new features, including interesting aspects of IUPS history, kindly provided by Sue Orsoni, our Executive Secretary. Marjan also plans to revive the IUPS website newsletter, so watch out for future developments!

We are now looking forward to the important Council, Executive Committee, and ISPC meetings in Kyoto, Japan in December 2007, which will be of considerable significance for the future of IUPS—because of the consideration of the report from the Long-Range-Planning Committee chaired by Denis Noble—and for the 2009 Congress. We hope to report on the outcome of these meetings in a future editorial. ■

### References

1. Kaneko A, Petersen OH. The International Union of Physiological Sciences editorial III. *Physiology* 22: 156–157, 2007.
2. Kaneko A, Petersen OH. The International Union of Physiological Sciences editorial II. *Physiology* 21: 228, 2006.