

30th Anniversary Retrospective

There can be no doubt that JBMR is the pre-eminent journal in the bone and mineral field. I was delighted to have a paper in the first volume under the editorship of Larry Raisz. In early 1995 I was pleased and honored when the JBMR Editor-in-Chief (elect) Marc Drezner invited me to be an associate editor. Little did I realize that this role would run for 8 years. It was however a very exciting time including the transition to self-publishing. When Marc finally decided to hang up his spurs, I applied to be Editor-in-Chief and was delighted to be appointed.

Building on the previous success of the Journal, I was able to put together an amazing group of Associate Editors that reflected a range of skills and international representation. Sylvia Christakos, Olof Johnell, Gerard Karsenty, Shigeaki Kato, Pam Robey, David Roodman, Cliff Rosen, Andy Stewart and Raj Thakker represented to my mind the elite of the bone and mineral field internationally. I view each of these both as highly respected colleagues and good friends to this day. Sadly one of the most gifted of our colleagues, Olof Johnell, died quite suddenly in 2006; a very sad loss. Huibert Pols fortunately agreed to fill this role.

I decided I would not do a primary review on any paper, even one in my area of interest, but would act as an arbiter of any uncertainty that came back through the Associate Editor and our Reviewers. I would like to think that this worked very efficiently. I cannot recollect difficulties at any time in managing the manuscripts that came through. My view was that it was important to accept papers that challenged some of the existing views rather than only papers in which the work was completely 'proven'.

The move from paper version to online management was a dramatic change and one that fitted extremely well with the geographically dispersed nature of our office. The outstanding North Carolina editorial office team of Adrienne Lee, Heather Price, Amber Williams and David Allen in North Carolina, would send me all the manuscripts and any other materials requiring my attention at the end of their workday. That would all be sitting in my electronic in-box when I woke in the morning. I would deal with it and return it to them so it was ready for them when they returned the next morning. This helped to improve the turnaround time for manuscript review and decisions. We were a very effective and collaborative group.

During my tenure, I introduced the "micro-abstract" with the view that each author would submit three sentences, essentially describing why their work was done, what it found and how it changed the area. I felt this was very helpful both to the authors to encapsulate what was important and for readers, all very time poor as are we all, to know which papers they should read. I was disappointed when the next editor-in-chief removed it, although other journals have now adopted this approach.

During my tenure, we had a lot of discussions about the idea of shifting to an electronic-only journal but this was never considered to be an economically feasible option as long as any members continued to wish to receive the paper journal.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Editor-in-Chief role except during one ongoing challenge to the validity of some science published in JBMR. This was a difficult time for the Journal, for the Author and for the Complainant. I would like to think that this was eventually dealt with effectively as addressed in an Editorial. The process developed then was then part of the ongoing 'standard operating procedures' should anyone subsequently raise issues. Another outcome of this challenge was that we moved to require registration of all clinical trials reported in the journal - one of the standards now for publication of clinical research worldwide in all major journals.

One of the side benefits of being Editor-in-Chief was that you were an *ex officio* member of the ASBMR Council. That was a unique experience as, over 5 years, I saw the commitment of the successive Presidents and Council to delivering the ASBMR mission of supporting and encouraging high quality science nationally and internationally. I particularly valued seeing the equal commitment of all Councils to national and international members.

As Editor-in-Chief I read virtually every manuscript that came in and certainly every manuscript that was accepted. It was exciting to see the progress of science even during those 5 years. I consider I learnt a huge amount and thank ASBMR and the ASBMR Executive for their confidence in me. It was a most valuable and much appreciated experience. It was an honor to have fulfilled that role.

John A Eisman
JBMR Editor-in-Chief 2003-2008