



# Editorial

Every year in the March issue, we publish a report on the operation of the Journal. This report provides information on matters like our efforts to make our papers more accessible to fluids engineers, reduce reviewing time, as well as our special activities, like the publication of special articles, the establishment of the JFE Data Bank, publishing in color and others. We also include standard information on the four issues of the previous volume, namely, the list of reviewers and an index of papers listed under certain technical categories.

The Editorial Board of the Journal has had many discussions over the past years on what this Journal could do to improve the process of technology transfer. For the time being, the Editor urges authors strongly and in specific terms to include in their conclusions information that could be appreciated by practicing fluids engineers. This is an issue of current concern (see also the series of editorials on U.S. Competitiveness that appeared in our Technical Forum) and we are eager to participate more actively in the process of technology transfer after the Division defines the Journal's role.

An informal investigation indicated that only a few papers presented at the Division meetings are submitted to the Journal. To some extent, this may be due to the impression shared by some authors that papers included in symposium proceedings cannot be submitted for Journal publication. In fact, ASME does not consider proceedings papers archival and such papers are accepted by all ASME transactions for publication. We do not actively solicit conference papers but it appears that we could serve our readership better if the most significant papers from our meetings were eventually published in the Journal.

In the past year, we experienced again an increase in the number of submitted papers. This trend started about five years ago and the increase since then has been monotonic. The number of papers received has nearly tripled in this period. For a few years now, we were able to secure more pages for the Journal for a total increase of about 60 percent. Unfortunately, in the past two years, no further increase was possible. Due to the global recession, many libraries have discontinued their subscription to a large number of technical journals. The JFE does cover its expenses of publication but the ASME Publications Committee decided to follow a uniform, conservative approach and did not approve any increase in allotted pages for any of the ASME Transactions. This situation has increased our backlog and as a result lengthened the acceptance-to-publication time.

In the past year we were able to decrease the time between submission and the editorial decision on publication to an average of ten months. This figure may not seem encouraging but one should bear in mind that it includes the time required for revisions, which unfortunately for many authors is six or more months. More disturbing to individual authors are delays on the first return of reviews and editorial advice. These are usually due to individuals who accept the responsibility to review a paper, but fail to respond, even after many telephone or e-mail prompts. Authors should understand that if two of the three reviewers do not respond after a few months, the Editorial Board is at an impasse. We usually turn to new reviewers to whom we explain the situation but we cannot

expect from them a response sooner than the traditional two to three weeks usually allowed for a review.

In the past year we established a data bank for data that accompany selected JFE papers. Today, modern equipment can generate massive numbers of experimental data. Since only a small set of such data can be presented in the few figures of a paper, it was decided to provide to the Journal readership selected files of data electronically. Data are reviewed and archived and once deposited to the JFE Data Bank, they are considered an integral part of a JFE paper and should be appropriately referenced if employed or manipulated by other authors. Papers accompanied by data are identified by a subtitle. Readers can log on to the JFE Data Bank, examine and if they desire, download files. Directions appear in the last few pages of each issue.

The JFE Data Bank initiative appears to have been received enthusiastically by the JFE readers. In the month of April 1993 alone, immediately after the appearance of the March issue, over 1,500 individuals logged on to the JFE Data Bank and about half of them downloaded data. The March 1993 issue contained two review articles, which were accompanied by data and should have been very useful to the readers. This rate has been reduced since but at any month, a few hundred readers log on to the JFE Data Bank.

Our readers must have noticed that the December issue appeared in color. This is an option now available. Unfortunately, there is a charge to the authors, but thanks to the efforts of our publisher, Mr. James Sheridan and our copy editor, Ms. Cornelia Monahan, this was reduced to a fraction of what other technical journals charge for color. Depending on how many papers accompanied by color figures can be grouped in one issue, a color page could cost between \$300 and \$800 to the authors.

Finally we should acknowledge the valuable contribution of seven of our associate editors whose tenure has expired. They are (i) Dr. Nicholas A. Cumpsty in the area of fluid application and systems, (ii) Dr. Thomas T. Huang, in the area of fluid measurements, (iii) Dr. Ramesh K. Agarwal, (iv) Mr. Dennis M. Bushnell, (v) Dr. Ho, Chih-Ming, in the area of fluid mechanics, (vi) Dr. Andrea Prosperetti, in the area of multiphase flow, and (vii) Dr. Saad A. Ragab, technical editor's office. We sincerely appreciate their hard work. We should also acknowledge the contributions of our reviewers. The names of the individuals who helped us out this year are listed in the last pages of this issue.

Individuals have been nominated to serve three-year terms as associate editors. These and the areas they will be working on are: Professor Hiroyuki Hashimoto (Tohoku University, Japan), Professor Wing-Fai Ng (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)—fluid application and systems; Dr. Jong H. Kim (Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA)—multiphase flow; Professor David E. Stock (Washington State University)—fluid measurement; and Professor S. Pratap Vanka (University of Illinois)—computational fluid dynamics. Professor Joseph A. C. Humphrey was reappointed for a second three year term and will work in the area of fluid mechanics.

**The Technical Editor**