



Editorial

Each year we include in our March issue some standard information on the four issues of the previous volume, namely, the list of reviewers, and an index of papers of the previous year listed under certain technical categories. In the same issue, we also provide a report on the operation of the Journal. This is a report from the Editor to the readers and the contributing authors on the progress we made in our efforts to make the scientific material offered more accessible to fluids engineers, on reducing the reviewing time, etc.

In the past year we experienced a further increase in the number of submitted papers. This trend started about four years ago. In this period, the number of submitted papers more than doubled. In the same period, the number of submitted papers in the areas of fluid applications and systems and multi-phase flow have declined, which we attribute to the fact that relatively few symposia were organized in these areas by our Division. However, many members in our Division are very active in these areas and we anticipate this trend to be reversed very soon. It appears, therefore, that we could expect a further increase in the number of submitted papers.

An informal recent investigation indicated that rather few papers presented at the meetings of the Division 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 can not 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 would serve our readership better if the most significant papers from our meetings were eventually published in our Journal.

In the past few years, subscriptions to most ASME transactions have leveled off or experienced a mild decline. We have indications that in the coming year the national financial crunch will lead to further reductions of subscription levels. So far, our Journal has been spared this decline and in fact, in the past year it has seen a modest increase in the number of subscriptions.

With a surge in submitted papers, and even with rates of acceptance kept low (between 40 and 45 percent), the number of accepted papers has grown considerably and has created a serious backlog. Our next two issues (June and September) are full and we have been scheduling papers for our December issue. To remedy this situation, we pursued and were successful in obtaining modest increases in the allotted pages and we hope that this year too, we will be able to add about one hundred extra pages to our four issues. The growth of an archival publication in one way adds to the proliferation of papers, but the readers should keep in mind that our Journal is leaner than other ASME Transactions and publishes much less material than other peer journals like *Physics of Fluids*, *AIAA Journal*, and the *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*.

Our readers may have noticed that we are now devoting a few pages in each issue to a "Technical Forum." In this space we will be publishing information and opinions directly related to the goals of the Journal and the technical needs of its readers

and contributing authors. Space will also be available to contributors who would like to offer suggested directions to the research community and information on how to improve the technology transfer from research conducted in government laboratories and universities to development of products in industry. Related to these goals is a series of articles on U.S. Competitiveness which we started with our September issue. In our next issue we will add selected abstracts from a recent Forum sponsored by our Division on Research Needs in Fluid Mechanics.

The Editorial Board of the Journal has had many discussions over the past year on what this Journal could do to improve the process of technology transfer. For the time being, this Editor urges authors strongly and in specific terms to include in their papers information on their contribution, written in a way that could be easily understood and appreciated by practicing fluids engineers. This is an issue of current concern (see the article on U.S. Competitiveness in this issue) and we are eager to participate in the process of technology transfer after the Division defines the Journal's role.

Reducing the time from submission to publication is a permanent and often frustrating task. Last year we reported some gains. We were able to reduce the time from submission to acceptance to nine months in the average and the time to publication to twelve months. It is now embarrassing to have to report that these figures have somewhat increased this year. It is true that most delays are due to tardy reviewers but it is the duty of the editorial board to continuously urge the reviewers to return their comments in a timely manner. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee turn around times. The most frustrating situation is when reviewers accept the responsibility to work on a paper and months later simply do not respond. An associate editor is then forced to turn to new reviewers and start the process all over again. The severe backlog we are now experiencing will further lengthen the period from first submission to final publication of a paper, but this is beyond the control of the Editorial Board.

Finally we should acknowledge the valuable contribution of two of our associate editors whose tenure has expired. They are (i) Dr. Franklin T. Dodge, in the area of fluid machinery and (ii) Dr. Efstathios E. Michaelides who served one extra year in the area of multi-phase flow. We sincerely appreciate their hard work, but here it is perhaps appropriate to acknowledge also 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: Dr. Nicholas A. Cumpsty (Cambridge University), Dr. Lev Nelik (Goulds Pumps, Inc.)—fluid applications and systems; Professor Ralph W. Metcalfe (University of Houston), Professor George Em Karniadakis (Princeton University), Professor Ahmed F. Ghoniem (MIT)—fluid mechanics; and Professor Morteza Gharib (Cal Tech)—fluid measurements.

The Technical Editor