

Editorial

Our views of the physical world are changing rapidly. Humanity's continuing search for coherent structures in physics, biology, and cosmology has frequently led to surprises as well as confusion. Discovering new phenomena is one thing, and the facts are often clear enough, but interpreting them, putting them into context with other pieces of knowledge, and inferring their fundamental consequences is quite something else. There are controversies, differences of opinion, and sometimes even religious feelings which come into play. These should be discussed openly. Philosophical issues that are of a general, nontechnical nature should be handled in the opinion pages of the news media, but when the discussed arguments become too technical for that, when peer review is needed to select the really valuable pieces of insight, only a distinguished scientific journal is the appropriate forum.

The journal *Foundations of Physics* has been led by the able hands of Prof. Alwyn van der Merwe for a very long time. Now, we are continuing under my editorship. The scope of the journal remains much the same: the conceptual bases and fundamental theories of modern physics, biophysics, and cosmology, emphasizing the logical, methodological, and philosophical premises of modern physical theories and procedures. As before, we welcome papers on the interpretation of quantum mechanics, quantum field theory, special and general relativity. We think it is also time for the experts on string theory, M-theory, and brane cosmology to ponder the foundations of these approaches, and ask them to submit papers. Cosmology is an important subject where controversial ideas abound, and such discussions are welcome.

In the coming months you will still see articles accepted by my capable colleague Alwyn van der Merwe. As of January 1st, 2007, I hope to receive your submissions which should then be published from April to May onwards. Let me assure you that I am well aware that maintaining a reliable and just peer review system has never been easy. We will

ask referees to devote their precious time to inspect submitted material. Their verdict is often tough, and the rejection rate will be high; this is unavoidable considering the nature of our subject. Dismissal of a manuscript may mean that its quality is not considered to be adequate, that too many objections could be raised against the arguments displayed, but papers can also be rejected if they do not match with the intended scope of the journal. Acceptation of a paper may not necessarily mean that all referees agree with everything, but rather that the issues put forward by the author were considered to be of sufficient interest to our readership, and the exposition was clear enough that our readers, whom we assume to be competent enough, can judge for themselves.

The former letters publication, *Foundation of Physics Letters*, now merges with *Foundations of Physics*. Short papers that demand a rapid publication process will be included in the special section “Letters to the Editor” (and will be available as open access papers, without open access fee). Authors who wish to raise discussion points or other articles of a different format are welcome to submit these as well, if they care to explain their wishes with the submission.

The internet today allows for a considerably faster publication process. *Foundations of Physics* is available online at Springerlink. In order to shorten the publication time as much as possible, articles will be published ‘Online First’, well before allocation to an issue. Submission of manuscripts as well as review reports can also be done online. Instructions for using our web-based review tool ‘Editorial Manager’ can be found on the journal homepage at springer.com.

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