

## DEAR COLLEAGUES,

The Editorial board of *International Journal Bioautomation* has the honour of informing you about the changes introduced in the Journal's thematic scope, structure and management as of Issue 16(1)/2012. These changes are in response to the increasingly multidisciplinary focus of the theoretical and applied research in the areas of biology and biotechnologies, medicine and healthcare, environmental evaluation and protection, all being major factors for the Quality of Life indicator.

Established back in 2004, the Journal was originally related mainly to topics of bioprocess engineering. In a gradual and balanced way, the Journal's structure was elaborated and separate sections devoted to biomedical engineering, bioinformatics and ecological engineering were formed. There was an increase of the share of studies in which mathematical, physical, biophysical and computer-based methods were applied to processing, analysis and modelling of biomedical and biotechnological systems and processes. This thematic development and the growing involvement of prominent researchers worldwide have naturally led to heightened readership interest, so that in 2008 the Journal was made available both in print and online. In the same year, the *International Journal Bioautomation* was included in the list of academic editions of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. For the period 2012-2013, the National Science Fund of Bulgaria approved a grant for enhancing the Journal's quality and its further scientific recognition. Currently, the Journal is being refereed by many reputed specialized international bibliographic databases:

*Chemical Abstract Service, Directory of Open Access Journals, Electronic Journals Library, Scopus, SCIRUS, CAB Abstracts & Global Health, OhioLINK – Electronic Journal Finder, Electronic Journals by Publisher, University of Saskatchewan Library, FHH – Bibliothek – Elektronische Zeitschriften, Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek, Universitätsbibliothek TU Berlin: E-Zeitschriften / EZB, Electronic Journals, Medical informatics, bioinformatics, biomedical engineering: Free medical journals, Google Scholar, Viniti.*

In pursuit of further advancement of the scientific impact of *International Journal Bioautomation*, the Editorial board decided to introduce some changes in the thematic and editorial structure of the Journal that are coming into effect as of the beginning of 2012. Taking into consideration the increasing significance of biomedicine in the theoretical and applied aspects of biological physics, as well the technological contributions of the medical physics, the Editorial board included a new thematic section titled "Biomedical physics". The extended structure of the thematic directions and the increased intensity of editorial activity determined certain changes in the Editorial board itself and in the distribution of responsibilities among its members. Leading scientists in the area of biological and medical physics were recruited.



The following new structure of the Editorial board was adopted:

Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, and five Topic Editors who serve the five major thematic directions. As an expression of acknowledgement and gratitude for his role as a founding editor and long-term editor-in-chief, Prof. Stoyan Tzonkov was elected Honorary Editor.

The forthcoming issue of *International Journal Bioautomation* reflects all the changes that have been made. The Editorial board firmly believes that the reforms will benefit the Journal, bringing it to higher positions in the ratings of international journals with similar thematic scope.