



Publisher's note

Welcome to the first issue of *Biomaterials* for 2015!

The end of 2014 marks an end of era in the history of *Biomaterials*: transition between the editorial team of David Williams (Editor-in-Chief) and Peggy O'Donnell (Managing Editor) to the new team of Kam Leong (Editor-in-Chief) and Stefania Mazzitelli (Managing Editor).

David Williams has been Editor-in-Chief (initially together with R. Langer and N. Peppas, later on his own) since 1996 and has been largely responsible for the extraordinary successful transformation of *Biomaterials* into the undisputed leading journal for the biomaterials community. The impressive increase in the journal impact factor since 1996 (as seen on Fig. 1) has been accompanied by extremely fast editorial and production speed, actively embracing emerging hot areas and steady increase in the number of papers published.

The latest (2013) impact factor, released by Thomson Reuters in end July 2014, is an impressive 8.312¹, up from 7.604² the year before. The impact of the journal continues its rise and it remains the No.1 journal in the subject category Materials Science: Biomaterials as well as the top primary (publishing mostly original papers) journal in the subject category Biomedical Engineering.

I would like to express our deep gratitude to David for his extraordinarily strong contribution to the journal and to announce that he now becomes Honorary Editor of *Biomaterials*. To further honour his contribution to the journal and its community, from 2015 we will establish a new annual award for the Best Paper published in *Biomaterials* during the previous year carrying the name of David Williams.

I would also like to express our thanks to Peggy O'Donnell who has been the ever efficient and loyal Managing Editor of

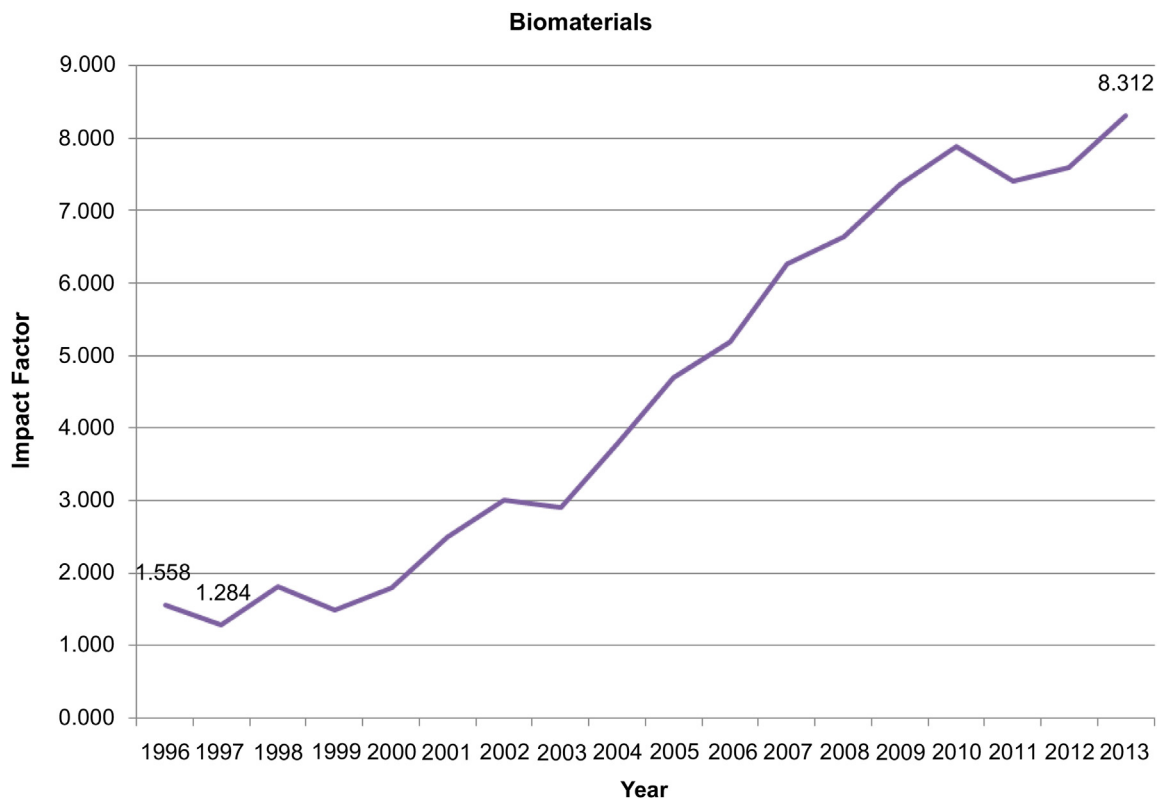


Fig. 1. Development of the impact factor of *Biomaterials* from 1996 until 2013.

¹ © Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2014.

² © Journal Citation Reports, Thomson Reuters, 2013.

Biomaterials for the past 13 years. Peggy is largely responsible for the extremely fast editorial speed that the journal prides itself with.

Kam Leong already started as co-Editor-in-Chief earlier in 2014 and has gradually been taking over completely the Editor-in-Chief responsibility from David during the course of 2014.

Kam W. Leong is Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University in New York City, USA. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving as a faculty in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for 20 years, he moved to Duke University in 2006 to work on nanomedicine research, focusing on nanoparticle-mediated nonviral gene delivery and cancer immunotherapy, from synthesis of carriers to mechanistic studies of identifying critical delivery barriers and to applications for hemophilia and immunotherapy. His lab also works on the application of nanostructured biomaterials for regenerative medicine, particularly on understanding cell–topography interactions and on the nonviral approach for direct cellular reprogramming. He serves on the editorial boards of seven journals, owns more than 50 issued patents, and has published ~280 peer-reviewed research manuscripts, with over 24,000 citations and an h-index of 80. His work has been recognized by a Young Investigator Research Achievement Award of the Controlled Release Society and by the Society for Biomaterials Clemson Award for Applied Research. He is a member of the USA National Academy of Engineering. In September 2014 he moved from Duke University to Columbia University.

I would like to introduce the new Managing Editor of Biomaterials Stefania Mazzitelli who joined the journal in September 2014.

Stefania Mazzitelli graduated in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies in 2006 from the University of Perugia, Italy with a thesis on polymeric devices for cell encapsulation. She obtained her PhD in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (under the supervision of Professors R. Gambari and C. Nastruzzi) in 2012 from the University of Ferrara, Italy. Her PhD work included production and characterization of polymeric microcapsules and microconduits; devices for cell encapsulation and tissue engineering applications; innovative drug delivery systems. She has been a visiting student at the Department of Materials of ETH Zurich (Peter Walde's lab). During her PhD studies she has spent time at S. Badyalak's lab at McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine (University of Pittsburgh, USA) working on the decellularization of isolated organs for tissue engineering devices; at the Biomaterials, Biomimetics & Biophotonics Research Group of the Dental Institute of Guy's Hospital in London, UK, working on the characterization of biomaterials; and School of Engineering Sciences, University of Southampton, UK, working on the mechanical characterization of biomaterials in forms of microparticles and microfibers. In 2012–2014 Dr Mazzitelli was a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Ferrara, Italy working on microfluidic technology for the production of brain delivery nanosystems and in 2014 she was lecturer in Biomaterials at the School of Pharmacy, University of Ferrara. Stefania joined Elsevier in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in late August 2014 to become the Managing Editor of *Biomaterials*.

The large increase in the number of papers submitted to *Biomaterials* inevitably created the need for a larger editorial team. I am pleased to introduce our largely new team of Associate Editors who will be playing a crucial role in helping Kam and Stefania with the initial review of each newly-submitted paper.

Youngro Byun is Professor at the Department of Molecular Medicine and Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Graduate School of Convergence Science and Technology, and College of Pharmacy, Seoul National University in Korea. His research interests are the areas of i) therapeutic glycobiologics (heparin conjugates for the treatment of blood coagulation, cancer, and fibrosis), ii) drug delivery systems (oral drug delivery, Induced phenotype tumor

targeting) and iii) surface modification of pancreatic islets for the prevention of immune reactions.

Chong-Su Cho is Research Professor at the Department of Agricultural Biotechnology and Research Institute for Agriculture and Life Science, Seoul National University in Korea. He received B.Sc. from Seoul National University in 1970 and Ph.D. from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1979 with Prof. Tohru Kawai. From 1982 to 1983 he was a postdoctoral researcher at University of Washington with Prof. Alan Hoffman and from 1983 to 1984 – at University of Utah with Prof. Sung-Wan Kim. From 1979 to 1998 he worked at Chonnam National University of Korea as assistant, associate and professor. Since 1998 he has been professor at Seoul National University. His research interests are gene therapy, drug delivery system, nanoparticles, tissue engineering.

Andrés J. García is the Rae S. and Frank H. Neely Endowed Chair and Regent's Professor in the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering and the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research program centers on integrating innovative engineering, materials science, and cell biology concepts and technologies to generate (i) novel insights into the regulation of adhesive forces and mechanotransduction, and (ii) cell-instructive materials for tissue repair in regenerative medicine applications. He has received several distinctions, including the NSF CAREER Award, Arthritis Investigator Award, Georgia Tech's CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award, Young Investigator Award from the Society for Biomaterials, Georgia Tech's Outstanding Interdisciplinary Activities Award, and the Clemson Award for Basic Science from the Society for Biomaterials. He has been elected a Fellow of Biomaterials Science and Engineering by the International Union of Societies of Biomaterials Science and Engineering and a Fellow of AAAS.

Shaoqin "Sarah" Gong is currently a Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, and UW Cancer Carbone Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her current research interests include nanomedicine, nanomaterials, and biobased materials.

Stuart B. Goodman is Professor of Surgery in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Stanford University. He has a courtesy appointment in the Department of Bioengineering and is an affiliate member in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Stanford University from 1994 to 2002. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Canada), the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Goodman's clinical practice concentrates on adult reconstructive surgery. His clinical research interests center on the outcome of surgery for arthritis including total joint replacement, juvenile arthritis, and osteonecrosis of the hip and knee. His basic science interests center on biocompatibility of orthopaedic implants, and musculoskeletal tissue regeneration and repair. Dr. Goodman is a member of numerous academic organizations including the Biological Implants Committee of the AAOS (Chairman), and is a former member of the AAOS Biomedical Engineering Committee. He is a member of the Hip Society and the Knee Society, a consultant to the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Devices Advisory Panel of the FDA, and former vice-chairman of the Musculoskeletal Tissue Engineering study section at NIH. Dr. Goodman is on the editorial board of the Journal of Orthopaedic Research (Associate Editor), Clinical Orthopaedics (Deputy Editor-Hip Society Liaison), Journal of Arthroplasty, Journal of Biomedical Materials Research, Biomaterials, and other journals, and is a reviewer for over 20 journals in the fields of orthopaedic surgery, arthritis, bioengineering and biomaterials. Dr. Goodman has published over 370 peer-reviewed manuscripts in medical and bioengineering journals. Dr. Goodman and co-workers have received awards for their research from the Society for Biomaterials,

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