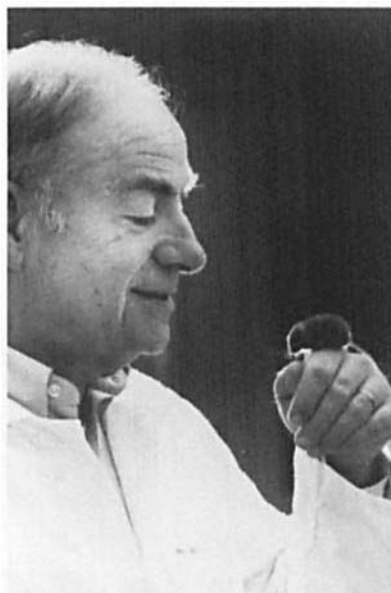


LETTER FROM THE RETIRING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



It was an honor to serve as the Editor of Experimental Biology and Medicine. I first became familiar with EBM (then Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine) in the early 60s when I was searching literature for reports relevant to the effects of prolactin on reproduction, the topic of my dissertation research at the University of Kansas. I read and cited many papers concerning prolactin and neuroendocrinology of reproduction that were published in PSEBM, and from time to time our lab contributed papers to "Proc. Soc.", as many of us called the journal.

My goals as the Editor were to increase the number of submissions and the quality of papers appearing in EBM and to try to make the journal more attractive and appealing to the members of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine and to other readers. We were also very concerned with improving the satisfaction of contributors by speeding up the review process and assisting, as much as possible, in the process of revisions of manuscripts before their final acceptance. High priority was given to continuation and enhancement of minireviews. This agenda may not appear to be very creative or ambitious, but we were very cognizant of the fact that, during the past several decades of biomedical publishing, most of the growth taken place by appearance and expansion of highly specialized journals and, with the notable exception of *Science* and *Nature*, very few interdisciplinary journals enjoyed growth or boasted high impact factors. In fact, there were reasons to be concerned that interdisciplinary journals, including EBM, will play a diminishing role in the field of biomedical publishing and that some of them may disappear. However, I was encouraged by vigorous membership recruitment campaign of the Society, impressive increase in the number of student members, and the strong will of the Council to invigorate the Society and the journal.

It appears that, with the assistance of Associate Editors, the Editorial Board, the officers of the Society, and the journal office, we were able to achieve some of our goals. The number of submissions stabilized, and during 2001 increased by over 9%. I am delighted that during the first 3½ months of 2002 this trend continues. Our impact factor is a reasonably respectable 3.4 and places us in the 11th place among 74 journals classified by ISI as Experimental: Research and Medicine.

I think it is reasonable to suspect that the availability of the journal "on line," the new, shorter name of our journal, continued emphasis on minireviews of timely and important topics, and publication of editorials concerning broad issues of academic medicine, career planning, etc., contribute to increased interest in our journal and will continue to do so. I believe that these positive trends, combined with the strong commitment and support of the Society, allows us to be optimistic about the future of our journal. Dr. Dale Romsos, the incoming Editor-in-Chief, has already developed long-term plans for EBM, along with a series of specific short-term goals, and I know that our journal will be in very good hands.

Before closing, I would like to thank the authors for their interest and trust in EBM and to thank the reviewers, the members of the Editorial Board, the Editors, and the council members of the Society for their efforts on behalf of the journal and for their support during the past 3½ years.

Andrzej Bartke