

Editor's Report for *Genome Biology and Evolution*, 2013

Bill Martin and Takashi Gojobori, in Kyoto

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The year ending December 2013 marked *Genome Biology and Evolution's* fifth year of operation. It was another strong year and we are pleased to say that the journal is meeting or exceeding all expectations that we set when the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE) embarked upon the endeavor to establish *GBE*. *GBE* was the first society-owned open access, online-only journal. Several other academic societies have followed suit, and open access, online-only publishing continues to be a popular model among researchers in our field. SMBE is an academic society devoted to furthering the understanding of the evolutionary process as it is recorded in the sequences of genes and genomes. *GBE* was designed to provide a service to evolutionary biologists by publishing leading scientific contributions in the field of genome evolution and, by virtue of the vast molecular evolutionary expertise that is concentrated in SMBE, setting academic standards in genome evolutionary investigations. *GBE* has achieved that goal in its first few years and the future for the field and the journal remains bright.

The life blood of a journal is a constant stream of high-quality submissions, and that vital statistic has remained excellent at *GBE* from day 1, a good indicator that SMBE membership has firmly embraced *GBE* as a prime outlet for cutting-edge work in genome evolution. In 2012, we received 259 manuscripts and in 2013 we are on track to receive roughly 360, a good increase and a trend that we hope will continue. Our acceptance rate for 2013 remained stable at

51%. Our 2012 impact factor came in at 4.76, a good mark that positions us well in our field and that attests to the hard work of the Associate Editors and referees serving the society at *GBE*. Manuscript handling has become even faster in 2013, and we currently average 29 days from submission to first decision, a very good mark that cannot be realistically improved by very much more.

In the tradition of the 2011 SMBE meeting in Kyoto, we implemented a theme cover for the 2012 meeting in Dublin and the 2013 SMBE meeting in Chicago. As always, Dan Gaur did the beautiful artwork, for which we are deeply grateful. We hope to continue this practice of having a theme cover specially designed by Dan for every meeting, and we hope that SMBE members appreciate the collector's value of Dan's artwork. The November 2013 cover, also designed by Dan, is special. It commemorates the award of the 2013 Kyoto Prize for Biology to Dr Masatoshi Nei, who founded SMBE. We again express our congratulations to Dr Nei.

The journal's website has been running well, and the interactions with our publisher, Oxford University Press, have been efficient and productive. We all owe Lulu Stader, who runs our Editorial Office, our deep thanks for making sure that everything at the manuscript handling end of the journal is running smoothly. In summary, and at the risk of repeating ourselves, the journal is sailing smoothly and we are well positioned on a steady course in an exciting and growing field.