

# Editorial

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**Alladi Sitaram, Associate Editor**

The distinguished biologist Jacques Monod, in the introduction to his book *Chance and Necessity*, has this to say about biology:

*But if the ultimate aim of the whole of science is indeed, as I believe, to clarify man's relationship to the universe, then biology must be accorded a central position, since of all the disciplines it is the one that endeavours to go most directly to the heart of the problems that must be resolved before that of 'human nature' can even be framed in other than metaphysical terms. Consequently no other science has quite the same significance for man . . . .*



Therefore, as this millennium gradually comes to an end, it is in the fitness of things that in this issue *Resonance* pays respect to a great biologist, Max Delbrück, one of the creators of the field of molecular biology, a field that will in all probability dominate the early part of the next millennium. As N Mukunda says in his review of Delbrück's *Mind from Matter? An Essay on Evolutionary Epistemology*, Delbrück has attained an almost mythical status. To learn why this is so, one should read the two articles on Delbrück, one by M Jayaram and the other by V Nanjundiah. In the *Classics* section, we have reproduced *A Physicist Looks at Biology* by Delbrück himself, a beautiful essay based on an address delivered by him in December 1949.

Coming to a completely different and rather practical matter, a question that is often discussed in our editorial meetings is: Are the *Resonance* articles in the mathematical sciences too 'hard'?! While we promise to try our best to make all the articles (including those in the mathematical sciences (!)) more 'user friendly', I will take the liberty of advising our young readers that the only way to read a mathematical article, *even an elementary one*, is to be armed with several pencils and a plentiful supply of paper, and try to work out as many steps involved as possible. For, as the old Chinese proverb goes: When I hear, I forget; when I see, I remember; *when I do, I understand.*

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*Jacques Monod*