

EDITORIAL

The Editorial Board of the *Bulletin of Materials Science* met on 7 November 1993 during the Annual Meeting of the Academy at Dehra Dun. A number of issues related to the publication of the journal were discussed at this meeting. While the general health of the journal was appreciated by the Editorial Board, it was also agreed upon that much needs to be done to improve its quality and make it a vibrant journal of materials science attractive to the international community of materials scientists. As an important step towards achieving this objective, the Editorial Board would like to request the materials scientists in India to publish their best work in the *Bulletin of Materials Science*.

It was also felt that there may be doubts in the minds of some authors about the impact their paper would make if published in the *Bulletin of Materials Science*. At this time this apprehension is well founded. But this is a proverbially interdependent situation; unless good papers are published in BMS, its impact index cannot go up and unless impact index goes up good papers will not be published in BMS. We may, by taking immediate and positive actions correct the situation. One such positive step has been suggested by the Editorial Board. That is for the journal to publish henceforth "rapid communications", based upon important research findings of scientists in about 2000–2500 words inclusive of figures, tables, etc. Authors may subsequently publish longer version of the paper either in the *Bulletin of Materials Science* or elsewhere. Such brief communications will of course undergo the rapid reviewing process and every endeavour will be made to communicate their acceptance or otherwise within four weeks of submission of the communication. Accepted communications will be published in the next immediate issue of the journal. We hope that the community of materials scientists will make use of this possibility to publish their best research findings in the journal which will help improve the impact factor of BMS.

Another feature the Editorial Board has found appropriate in this direction is to publish comprehensive review articles in the journal. The review articles also will be subject to critical scrutiny and we hope to publish at least one review in every issue of the journal from 1994. Scientists are urged to send critical and competent reviews on subjects of their research interest.

It is sincerely hoped that the *Bulletin of Materials Science* will soon find its legitimate place of high profile among international journals of its kind through your cooperation and involvement.

K J Rao
Associate Editor

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