

Editorial

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That the *Journal of Nonlinear Science* has had only a few people at the helm for the nearly 20 years of its life speaks well for its stability. But it has also been blessed with the support of many leaders of the community—editors, referees and authors alike—who have given their energy and time for the Journal’s success. It is through their efforts that the Journal has attained an important place in nonlinear science. We are pleased to have the opportunity to continue the tradition and, as we dedicate our time and effort to taking the Journal to new levels of service and accomplishment, we count on the continued and loyal support of the community.

The discussions about the Journal had started a few years before it became a reality in 1991. At that time, there were no journals catering particularly to nonlinear science—and the science itself was heady with its initial and exciting successes. In the intervening period, the technical and conceptual aspects of nonlinear science have penetrated most major traditional disciplines and the field has begun to assume the mantle of maturity. So it is worth revisiting the question: how may the Journal serve its community well?

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One way is to ensure that the papers published in the Journal are of high level, serving more than one scientific discipline such as mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, engineering and economics, illuminating issues beyond the boundaries of these disciplines. There is a strong intent to enable the flow of new ideas of mathematics towards applications. We welcome attractive papers in any area of science dealing with nonlinearity, whether oriented toward theory, experiment or numerical simulations, basic or applied—as long as they satisfy the requirements just stipulated.

We are committed to ensuring that the interval between submission and acceptance of papers is not overly long. In the same way, we are working towards adding a fast-track section of short papers deserving of faster publication by virtue of their immediate relevance. For authors and readers willing to explore media beyond the printed text, we will continue to enhance the use of electronic materials in the form of animations and more involved technical details.

We welcome your input and place our trust on your involvement in making the Journal an exciting avenue for publishing papers in nonlinear science.