



ECHOES

WORLD FEDERATION FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY

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Note from the Editor



Dear WFUMB members and other readers of the ECHOES.

The WFUMB President since the General Assembly in Montreal 2003 Prof.

Marvin Ziskin has frequently expressed his interest for a democratic policy in the leadership of the WFUMB, and he has stressed the importance of the administrative and economical resources to be shared equally among the WFUMB Affiliated Organizations.

One of the Presidents first steps in the administration of the WFUMB was to form new WFUMB Committee's and redefine previous ones.

WFUMB has now the following committee's:

Committee on Education for Medical Ultrasound, Committee on Ultrasound Safety, Publications Committee, Conference Committee, Education Program Committee, Committee on Standards and Information Technology, Finance Committee, Archives and History Committee, Constitution Committee, Public Relations Committee and Nominating Committee.

The present issue of ECHOES contains Reports from the WFUMB Committee's. It is our hope with these reports to give you an impression of the serious and important work that is done by a large number of skilled and enthusiastic members of the WFUMB Committee's, members that are working hard and complete voluntarily for the promotion of high quality ultrasound throughout the world.

Please do not hesitate to contact WFUMB Council members or the Editor of ECHOES if you want more information of the WFUMB activities or feel for comments of common interest for the WFUMB and for the ECHOES.

Søren Hancke

Message from the President



Many good things have been accomplished since our very successful meeting in Montreal. Committee structure and membership have been constituted, and significant activity has commenced. The Education

Committee, under the very able chairmanship of Dr. Elisabetta Buscarini, has a particularly large and active agenda. Short Ultrasound Training Courses are being offered in many areas of the world. A particularly successful course was held in January in Manila, Philippine Islands. Another course was conducted in Freetown, Sierra Leone. In each case, WFUMB Expert Teachers joined with one or more local teachers to present a week of training in practical ultrasound diagnosis. Comments about the courses from both the students and teachers have been excellent.

In addition to the WFUMB Educational Courses, we have established two Ultrasound Centers of Excellence: One in Dhaka, Bangladesh and the other in Kampala, Uganda. These centers were selected after a lengthy and detailed evaluation of their expertise and their ability to train physicians to practice diagnostic ultrasound where it is most needed. We have also established a program of WFUMB Scholarships to enable physicians from less developed countries to train for periods of three to six months at an excellent international hospital under the mentorship of a recognized leader in ultrasound. Two scholarships have been awarded this year: one to Dr. M. Sayed of Tunisia, and the other to Dr. Xiang Zhou of China. Further details and application information can be obtained from the WFUMB web site (www.wfumb.org).

Our web site, under the Editorship of Dr. Soren Hancke has been updated and is very attractive. It provides much useful information about WFUMB. I have found that I consult it frequently, especially for getting names and contact information. I hope that you will also find the web site useful.

The Ultrasound Safety Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Stan Barnett, is working on a project to establish internationally agreed upon guidelines for the safe use of ultrasound contrast agents. A draft document has been prepared, and proposed guidelines are being developed for ultimate adoption by an international group of experts.

Our journal, **ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY**, continues to be a major publication in ultrasound. I encourage you to subscribe, as it provides much information of scientific and clinical interest. The success of this journal is in large measure due to its superb Editor-in-Chief, Professor P.N.T. Wells. Unfortunately, Professor Wells has decided to retire following the WFUMB 2006 meeting in Seoul, Korea. Because of the importance of this position, we have initiated a search for a replacement. Anyone qualified and interested should contact Dr. Beryl Benacerraf, the Chair of the Publications Committee.

The next WFUMB General Assembly will take place at the WFUMB 2006 meeting, which will be held May 28 - June 1, 2006 in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Byung Ihn Choi is the Conference Chairman, and he is doing a great job of organizing what will be an outstanding meeting. Please mark the dates on your calendars. The WFUMB General Assembly meeting in 2009 will be in Sydney, Australia. The bidding process for future sites will begin soon.

The next WFUMB Administrative Council meeting will take place on June 9, 2004 immediately following the EUROSON 2004 meeting, in Zagreb, Croatia. The WFUMB Administrative Council consists of the Executive Committee (the Officers), three Co-opted Councilors, and representatives from each of the Affiliated Societies. Please feel free to contact any of the above for information or to voice your comments. Of course, that goes for me too. I will always welcome your comments.

Marvin C. Ziskin, M.D.
WFUMB President

Message from the Secretary



I am very pleased to have been elected Secretary of WFUMB and I look forward to the challenges ahead. I believe that this is a most important function to provide support and uphold the ideals of WFUMB. I have taken

over the role from Dr. Soren Hancke who worked tirelessly in this position for nine years, serving three Presidents. Soren has now enthusiastically taken on the responsibility of editor of the WFUMB website and the ECHOES bulletin. These activities are essential in the promotion of WFUMB and in providing advice to members.

After years of planning the WFUMB is putting into practice a number of initiatives. I will briefly mention some of the major endeavours.

Dr. Hiroki Watanabe, Immediate Past-President of WFUMB was the driving force behind the formation of the first WFUMB Centre of Excellence, officially opened in Bangladesh in February 2004. Dr. Kanu Bala, Bangladesh Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and Research is the primary link in this WFUMB initiative. Dr. Bala is very anxious to promote standards of practice in his country and has also participated in a plenary session of the ASUM/Asia-Link Program as a guest of the ASUM 2003 meeting in Perth, Australia.

The WFUMB World Congress is a major activity which takes many years of planning. Hence, the venue is decided by the WFUMB Council six years prior to the planned meeting. The local organizing committee for the 2006 congress in Seoul is working hard, under the chairmanship of Dr. Byung Ihn Choi. Promotion for the 12th world congress in Sydney is already under way. In my role as Convenor of WFUMB 2009 Congress, I will be working together with the Korean Society of Ultrasound in Medicine to promote WFUMB congresses.

It is now time for interested affiliated Societies to lodge expressions of interest for the opportunity to host the WFUMB World Congress in 2012.

A WFUMB Scholarship was successfully completed and an excellent report received from Dr. Xiang Zhou describing ultrasound development in China. Dr. Zhou offered to be a "good connector between WFUMB and China" and suggested being "an ultrasound transmission gel" for China and WFUMB. It is very pleasing to see such examples of international collaboration and support offered by WFUMB.

Stan Barnett
WFUMB Secretary



Dr. Byanima, Uganda received a WFUMB Scholarship 2003

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL ULTRASOUND



Chair: Elisabetta Buscarini (EFSUMB)

Members: B.I.Choi (AFSUMB), L. Fernandez (FLAUS), H.Gharbi (MASU), H.Lutz (EFSUMB), H.Watanabe (AFSUMB)

June 2003 the WFUMB Committee on Education for Medical Ultrasound has been launched by Marvin Ziskin, WFUMB President, to coordinate the many activities of the Federation in this field. In the past year the committee has been working on previously started educational projects (African and Asian projects) and also on new projects and perspectives. Educational programs of WFUMB are intended to create links with centers and teams interested to learn or refresh ultrasonography, to start training programs for local trainers and to maintain and increase the level of trainees.

WFUMB EDUCATION PROJECT FOR AFRICA

On February 13-15 th 2004, in Freetown, Sierra Leone, a Course of the WFUMB African Project was held, in collaboration with local radiologist Dr. Gordon Harris and three speakers - H. Gharbi, H. Lutz, I. Bellagha. Sierra Leone is just recovering from a devastating war, and side effects of this war are still heavy, implying also many difficulties to travel inside the country. We are convinced that our efforts for a country in such poor and lonely conditions, also from the scientific point of view (250 physicians, 12 US equipments, for 5 million inhabitants in the whole country), are worth, and so was to teach the colleagues very motivated. In the three-days course 20 lessons and hands-on sessions were done, both lively participated by the attendants. A further Course of WFUMB African Project will be held in Uganda and Kenya, in October. African project members (E. Buscarini H. Gharbi, H. Lutz) intend to prepare a course both in Kampala and in Nairobi (3-4 days each, in the same week); in that occasion it will be also officially launched the WFUMB Center of Excellence of Kampala with an ultrasound workshop organised by the team of Mulago Hospital and Uganda Society of Ultrasound (UGASON) headed by doctor Michael Kawoya. Thereafter the Kenya course will further corroborate relationships within local teams.

WFUMB EDUCATION PROJECT FOR ASIA

Members of this project are B. Choi, C. Chiang, M. Kudo.

A very successful WFUMB "Training for the Trainers" Ultrasound Workshop was organized by B, Choi on January 21-23, 2004 at the Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City, Philippines. The purpose of this "Training for the Trainers" program was to provide ultrasound training knowledge, the techniques of scanning and interpretation, to those who become the trainers, and are competent to train others who are new in the field of diagnostic ultrasound. Six faculty members (B. Choi , H. Watanabe, G. McNally , M. Kudo, L. Fernandez, K. Vairojanavong) conducted the program and the Local Organizers cooperated whole heartedly; 22 lectures on different topics of ultrasound and hands-on training were conducted. Selected trainers from the different training institutions and regions of the Philippines attended the three day workshop in a very academic atmosphere.

A further "Training for the Trainers" Course in Asia is proposed by B. Choi, for the year 2004, for about 30 participants with at least one year of US experience. Course duration would be 3 days. Potential sites are China, India and Indonesia. Date yet unfixed: probably between November 2004 to February 2005.

WFUMB EDUCATION PROJECT FOR LATIN AMERICA

A new education project has been proposed and the first course would to be held in the second half of 2004 (potential sites Venezuela, Costa Rica). Members of the WFUMB educational project for Latin America will be GG. Cerri, L. Fernandez, MJ Taboada.

WFUMB SCHOLARSHIPS

For 2003 two applicants were selected: Dr. Myriam Sayed from Tunisia, who had a stage in Paris, France, for an advanced course on interventional US , and dr Rosemary Byanima from Uganda who had a stage in Crema, Italy, for an advanced course on diagnostic and interventional abdominal Doppler US. Both these young radiologists confirmed in their final report that WFUMB fellowship gave them a great opportunity of deepening their US knowledge; Dr. Byanima who is an US trainer in her hospital



prepared also some presentations to share this experience with colleagues of her country. For 2004 one candidate has been selected so far for WFUMB fellowship: Dr. N'Draman Assoa from Benin who will study in Tours, France.

The committee has revised and implemented rules for the WFUMB scholarship that has been approved by the WFUMB Board and will be published on the WFUMB web site.

GUIDELINES OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR US COURSES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WFUMB education programs involve organising and sponsoring courses. WFUMB teachers are from different continents, from different medical extraction,

and change over the time. The education committee has thus proposed to have a frame of reference for WFUMB interdisciplinary courses, to have a standardized format for courses and lessons, so as to guarantee a better uniformity and effectiveness. Guidelines have been submitted to the WFUMB Executive Board for first trial. Further correction and improvement by the WFUMB Board members are advised, with a next revision. After a one-year trial a re-evaluation for definitive approval by the Executive Board is expected.

WFUMB-WHO RELATIONSHIPS

The meeting of WHO Global Steering Group for educational projects was held on March 8th 2004 in

Wien and H Lutz and E Buscarini attended. The position of the WFUMB as experts for ultrasound and educational activities was appreciated by the other members of WHO steering group.

Educational activities are of utmost importance, and we are convinced that we are seeding for the future; but educational projects are also very demanding great expertise, collaboration and organization and financial resources are needed. Therefore special thanks should be addressed to all WFUMB people who made these programs a reality.

Elisabetta Buscarini

COMMITTEE ON ULTRASOUND SAFETY



Chair: S.Barnett (ASUM)
Members: K.Marsal (EFSUMB),
M.Claudon (EFSUMB), F.Duck
(AIUM)

The WFUMB has clearly demonstrated its continuing commitment to ensuring safety and high standards of practice for the diagnostic use of ultrasound in medicine. The use of diagnostic ultrasound in medicine is generally considered to be safe when used according to established guidelines. Some ultrasound professional organisations believe that it is only appropriate to scan pregnant women when there is a reasonable expectation of improved diagnosis; i.e., a referred medical indication. Meanwhile, debate continues over safety of "live scanning" at equipment exhibitions. This is a current issue of contention. I am pleased to report that the WFUMB has never shirked its responsibilities in regard to establishing safety and proper policy on contentious issues. It will be some time before all such issues are thoroughly examined by the WFUMB Safety Committee.

A considerable and important WFUMB initiative is the scientific analysis of safety issues through its sponsorship of international Symposia on Safety and Standardisation. The purpose being to formulate conclusions and recommendations of the safe use for specific applications. The WFUMB Safety Symposia now follow a format that involves selection of appropriately qualified primary authors whose function it is to prepare draft chapters on a subset of specific topics relating to a particular bioeffect

concern. Experts from around the world including scientists, academics, ultrasonologist end-users and representatives from government regulators and industry are brought together in workshops to the topics and to create a draft document. The conclusions and recommendations are supported by the scientific content in each chapter. A period of wide international review and revision follows until a final document is presented to an international group of experts who pass their vote its acceptance, or otherwise. Ultimately, the internationally accepted conclusions and recommendations are submitted to WFUMB Council for endorsement as official policy. After that, the entire document is published in UMB, the official WFUMB journal.

The first WFUMB Symposium on Safety and Standardisation was held in Sydney in 1985. I was co-convenor together with Dr. George Kossoff. This initiative set the scene for future meetings, although there have been changes and refinements in the process which has led to the publication of WFUMB policy on issues relating to Thermal and Mechanical Bioeffects. The WFUMB statements on thermal effects of Doppler ultrasound have created widespread international interest. Following extensive review by the international scientific and medical community, the consensus of the first bioeffects meeting was published in a report on "Issues and recommendations regarding thermal mechanisms for biological effects of ultrasound" (WFUMB 1992). The WFUMB has adopted, as official policy, a number of important statements on thermal effects in clinical applications, to cover issues relating to

B-mode imaging, pulsed Doppler, and transducer heating.

(The statements on WFUMB conclusion and recommendation on thermal effects and the WFUMB policy on Safety of Diagnostic Ultrasound will be published in the next issue of ECHOES, October 2004). (SH)

Since the original set of policy statements were published in 1992, the WFUMB Safety Committee has published scientific review papers. These are available on the WFUMB website.

The principal role of the WFUMB Safety Committee is to conduct expert working group analyses of developments in research on bioeffects and safety and to develop universally agreed safety guidelines and policy. The Safety Committee also liaises with affiliated societies, government organisations and regulatory bodies and the WHO for the purpose of providing up-to-date and authoritative information on appropriate application of ultrasound in medicine.

Chapters on the safe use of echo-contrast agents have been prepared and are currently under review before the next major workshop, planned for the end of this year. The process is quite demanding and I would like to extend my sincere thanks and to recognise the continued effort and personal commitment of the current and past members of the WFUMB Safety Committee.

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to report on current activities of the Safety Committee, since taking on the role of Chair from Marvin Ziskin in June 2003.

Stan Barnett

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE



Chair: B. Benacerraf (AIUM)
Members: P.N.T. Wells (EFSUMB), Editor UMB

There are two main tasks of the Publications committee this year, both of which are crucial to the future well-being of WFUMB's Journal: Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology.

The first task involves the Publication contract with Elsevier. ELSEVIER Science has been the publisher of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (UMB) since 1996 and the contract with the publisher will soon be up for renewal. We are now entering the last few years of Prof Peter Wells' tenure as Editor in Chief of the Journal, and we need to reevaluate several aspects of the Journal, including the Publisher's contract. We will put out a request-for-applica-

tion (RFA) from any publisher interested in bidding, including Elsevier. We will be looking at issues such as proposals for promotion of the Journal and advertising, moving to electronic media and electronic review process, financial projections and costs.

The second assignment is to select the new Editor in Chief for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, as Prof Peter Wells will be retiring from that post at the end of 2006. We have started the search process early so as to take our time to find the right candidate, and to have a period of overlap of 6 months for the 2 Editors. The details of the search process are as follows:

In June 2004 we will publish an advertisement inviting individuals to come forth or nominate persons for consideration for the Editor in Chief of the Journal. This advertisement will be published in

most of the Journals or newsletters of our affiliated organizations. The nominations for the position should be received by early August, by the Chairman of the WFUMB Publications Committee. In September 2004 we will generate a short list of candidates for interview, and we will invite these individuals to submit statements of their visions for the future of the journal. The interviews of these candidates will take place the first week in December 2004, in Orlando, USA. By mid 2005, the new Editor-in-Chief-designate will be appointed by the WFUMB Administrative Council. In mid 2006, the new Editor-in-Chief will begin to work along side the current editor during the 6 month transition. In January 2007, the new Editor will take on all Editorial duties at the Journal.

B. Benacerraf

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



Chair: B.I. Choi (AFSUMB)
Members: B. Benacerraf (AIUM), G. Cerri (FLAUS), S. Barnett (ASUM), M. Claudon (EFSUMB)

The organizing committee of WFUMB'2006, Seoul, Korea has been established and a kick-off meeting was held on March 24, 2003. The organizing committee is composed of the following sub-committee's: Scientific Program Committee, Technical Exhibition Committee, Registration Committee, Accommodation Committee, Social Program Committee, Publication Committee, Communication & Promotion Committee

The promotional activities include: Printing of 2nd Announcement and Posters and Presentation at the WFUMB'2006 Booth in Montreal (May, 2003). Promotional brochures and posters of WFUMB'2006 have been distributed to more than 12 international meetings. The Organizing Committees of WFUMB'2006 and AFSUMB'2004 have agreed on a co-operation and will expand this cooperation to

other congresses including AIUM, EFSUMB, FLAUS, ASUM and MASU by distribution of congress brochures and materials, advertisement in the journals, exchange of mailing addresses, promotion through relevant manufacturers and share information on the invited speakers.

A tentative scientific program of WFUMB'2006 has been designated. MSUS and IBUS programs are considered to be included in the WFUMB'2006 scientific program as a pre-congress program.

The Congress Venue is the COEX Convention Center, Gangnam-Gu, Seoul 135-731, Korea. (www.coex.co.kr).

Two important activities of the organizing committee are fund raising, and increase of the number of participants. However, this is difficult since the number of manufacturers of ultrasound in recent years is decreasing and also the enthusiasm of US study is becoming weaker due to the strong competitors of US, such as multidetector CT, ultrafast MRI and fusion PET-CT.

Therefore, I would like to ask all members of

WFUMB to support the next congress in 2006. Ultrasound is still an excellent method with multiple smart functions including screening, characterization capability with contrast agents, real-time monitoring of interventional procedure, 3D & 4D etc. Thus, I am very confident in organizing a successful congress of WFUMB in 2006. Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to participate in the next congress in Seoul, 2006.

B.I. Choi



EDUCATION PROGRAM SPONSORING COMMITTEE



Chair: L.D.Platt
Member: L.Fernanderz

The committee has been seeking input from our colleagues in order to prepare revised goal and objectives. The long standing benefits of WFUMB has been the educational programs for which it has provided. Over the course of the next 2-3 years some members have expressed their desire to see a WFUMB sponsored or Co Sponsored post graduate course occur at least monthly. somewhere in the world. In order to better

facilitate the desired outcome the committee will meet at the next councilor meeting to divide the tasks going forward. It remains an objective of this committee to create a template for a "sponsored" meeting. In this regard the educational requirements along with the financial obligations of the "hosting" organization will be defined. Whether these courses follow the traditional lines of postgraduate education remains to be seen. Ideally, new and innovative means to reach all parts of the world is essential for this committee. The committee welcomes your suggestions.

Lawrence D. Platt

ARCHIEVES AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

Chair: P.N.T.Wells (EFSUMB)
Member: H.Watanabe (AFSUMB).

A CD-Rom on "History of Medical Ultrasound" has been compiled under the supervision of the committee, and the CD-Rom was given to each of the participants of the WFUMB 2003 World Congress in Montreal. There might still be some copies for distribution. Please contact the WFUMB Secretary if you are interested.

S.Hancke (ECHOES Editor)

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Chair: M. Claudon

The objectives of the committee are to deal with all ultrasound Standards at the World level, and support the full integration of ultrasound into information and communication systems. It appears that US has probably not been equally considered compared to CT and MRI in the development and management of information systems, including PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication Systems). Therefore, the committee is willing to establish a relationship with the industry,

particularly through a connexion with the DICOM working group 12. DICOM is the international standards that regulate ultrasound images storage and transfer. The composition of the committee should associate 3 representatives of clinicians, and 3 of the industry. Dr Joon Koo Han, Radiologist in Seoul, Korea, and Willy Rose, Agfa Europe already accepted to join. We are waiting for a clinician from AIUM, and a representative from an Asian company. It is also expected that the Chairman of DICOM WG 12 would accept to contribute.

Michel Claudon

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE



Chair: S.Barnett (ASUM)
Members: G.Cerri (FLAUS), M.Claudon (EFSUMB)

It is the primary responsibility of the WFUMB Constitution Committee to ensure that the Constitution is formulated and maintained in a way that takes account of the best interests of WFUMB, its governing Board and its membership. The constitution is an essential legal instrument that governs the operations of not-for-profit organisations like WFUMB. The constitution determines the way in which WFUMB activities are undertaken and dictates when and how the Administrative Council and Executive Bureau are elected to serve the organisation. To be effective as an international body with its component affiliated societies, it is essential that WFUMB Council and its committees appropriately represent global interests. Some recent initiatives that require formulation of guidelines include the WFUMB Scholarship, Centres of Excellence, WHO collaboration programs and educational support for developing countries and economies. It is the responsibility of the Constitution Committee to ensure that specially formed committees act within the framework of our legal

FINANCE COMMITTEE



Chair: G.Cerri (FLAUS)
Member: L.D.Platt (AIUM)

The accounts of the WFUMB presented a positive balance during the year of 2003. The financial reserves allow providing the World Federation the necessary balance for situations that eventually request extra expenses.

The balance between receipts and expenses are in accordance with the recommended for our society, without any risk to the fiscal balance. The administration of the financial resources managed by the treasury, are appropriated according to our evaluation.

G. Cerri

responsibilities. An important and growing area of activity for the Constitution Committee will be to address such issues to ensure indemnity of WFUMB volunteer committee members and officers of its Board.

The WFUMB constitution is published on the website and describes the composition of committees. The primary role of the Constitution Committee is to ensure that activities are carried out within the scope of the existing WFUMB constitution. It also holds the authority to recommend to Council changes that might improve efficiencies or allow expansion into new areas of activity.

I am very pleased to be supported in the Constitution Committee by very able and enthusiastic members of the Executive Bureau who have considerable experience and expertise.

Stan Barnett

PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE



Chair: S.Hancke (EFSUMB)
 Members: K.A.Jaeger (EFSUMB), M.Kudo (AFSUMB), L.D.Platt (AIUM), L.Fernandez (FLAUS), G.McNally (ASUM), E.Buscarini (EFSUMB)

The work of the Committee concentrates on the WFUMB WEB-Site (www.wfumb.org) and the WFUMB Newsletter, ECHOES.

The WEB-Site is frequently being updated and now includes information about almost all the activities of the WFUMB. The WEB-Site will expand with the increased activity of the Federation.

The WFUMB Newsletter "ECHOES" is published two times a year, in May and in October.

The first issue came out in October 2002. The ECHOES is usually distributed to all Affiliated Organizations and is frequently distributed at major scientific meetings. The present issue will f. ex. be distributed among participants of the EUROSON Meeting in June this year. The production cost is relatively modest while the distribution cost is heavy. Therefore the WFUMB is considering how to distribute the ECHOES in the near future. Decisions on the matter will be taken at the next board meeting in June 2004.

S. Hancke

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Chair: G.Cerri (FLAUS)
 Members: H.Watanabe (AFSUMB), K.A.Jaeger (EFSUMB), S.Barnett (ASUM), H.Gharbi (MASU)

The Committee takes care of the nomination of new Executive and Administrative officers of WFUMB as well as having the

responsibility of the election at the next WFUMB General Assembly which will take place in 2006. The Committee is therefore not active at the time being.

S.Hancke

ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY (UMB)

The high standing of the journal is being maintained. The most recent information on the performance of the journal relate to 2001. The impact factor was 1.758. This means that UMB ranked second in the field of "Acoustics" and 33rd in "Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging", both up one place from those in 2001. It is gratifying that Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology continues its success as the highest-ranking journal devoted to ultrasonics across the entire field of medicine and biology.

Not only is UMB still the leading journal in the field, but it is also the largest! The 2003 volume, which came out in 12 issues, contained 1866 pages. There is no more comprehensive coverage of the subject. If you would like to find out more about the journal and how to subscribe to it, please visit www.elsevier.com/locate/ultrasmedbio.

P.N.T. Wells
UMB Editor-in-Chief

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Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB)

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) www.aium.org

Latin American Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine (FLAUS) www.flaus.org

Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) www.asum.com.au/open/home.htm

Mediterranean and African Society of Ultrasound (MASU) www.agonet.it/masu