

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Innovative Optical Health Sciences*. In the past decades, we have witnessed how the combination of photonics and health sciences has benefited and touched our lives. Through products and techniques such as spectroscopy, lasers, microscopy, imaging and fiber optics, the science of biomedical photonics has shown great potential in solving clinical and research problems in diverse applications. Under this consideration, the JIOHS has been founded to serve as an international forum for the publication of the latest developments in all areas of biomedical photonics.

To bridge the division among doctors, biologists, physicists, and engineers is one of the important challenges of biomedical photonics. The JIOHS uniquely provides a vehicle for professionals, graduates, engineers, academics and researchers working in the field of intelligent photonics in biology and medicine to disseminate information on the state-of-the-art technique.

The JIOHS covers all the disciplines of photonics in biology and medicine, including but not limited to: photonic therapeutics and diagnostics, optical clinical technologies and systems, tissue optics, laser-tissue interactions and tissue engineering, biomedical spectroscopy, advanced microscopy and imaging, nanobiophotonics and optical molecular imaging, multimodal and hybrid biomedical imaging, micro/nanofabrication and medical microsystem.

In the initiation of the first issue, we are very thankful to receive brilliant contributions from many distinguished authors and organizations all over the world for this first and the coming issue in only three months time. The first issue includes papers covering researches on NIR spectroscopy, Terahertz technology, Molecular optical diagnosis, Optical coherence tomography, Raman spectroscopy *et al.*

As illustrated by the first issue of the JIOHS, the scope of the JIOHS includes all studies and applications of modern optics technology to basic research and clinics. JIOHS accepts regular peer-reviewed submissions, communications, and reviews. Future issues are expected to contain editorials or letters that discuss a diverse range of current interests from new optical technologies in health care to research progress worldwide. The first focus issue is being prepared by Dr. Britton Chance on "Optical Brain Imaging". All editors will be pleased to receive your suggestions and contributions for reviews or submissions on your expertise.

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All beginnings are hard. The editor is much grateful to the pioneers for the startup of the JIOHS. I would like to express my special thank to Dr. Britton Chance who provided significant supports and suggestions to make this all happen. I thank all members of the Editorial Board, Mr. Liang and Mr. Lee in World Scientific for their efforts in organizing the JIOHS from ground zero.

> Qingming Luo 2008 May