A Foreword from the Editor

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In 2015, “bioprinting” became an official term in the Oxford Dictionary. It was defined as “the use of 3D printing technology with materials that incorporate viable living cells”\(^1\). Mankind’s first thought on bioprinting dates back to more than a decade ago\(^2\), when bioprinting was seen as an interdisciplinary field between 3D printing and tissue engineering to create 3D human tissues/organs only. However, recent novel applications of bioprinting, such as tissue models for drug testing, medical implants for reconstructive surgeries and customised meat/food for personalized meals, have demonstrated the wider applicability and penetration of this new technology beyond tissue regeneration. According to Roots Analysis, the market for 3D bioprinted products is likely to reach USD 615 million by 2024 and USD 10 billion by 2030\(^3\). The commercial interests and prospects for bioprinting is huge. Therefore, to meet the future needs and developments of this fast-growing field, a brand new journal, *International Journal of Bioprinting* (IJB), has been launched.

IJB is a biannual, double-blind peer reviewed, open access journal, dedicated to publishing original research articles/reviews—amongst other submission categories—on the use of 3D printing technology with materials that incorporate viable living cells or biological elements to produce tissue or biotechnological products. The scope of this journal covers (but is not limited to) the following:

- Information technologies and basic research
- Materials and formulation
- Cell source and biotechnology for additive manufacturing
- 3D bioprinting technologies
- New design and fabrication paradigm
- Applied research purpose & evaluation of 3D printed products
- Associated social implications

In the inaugural issue, three reviews\(^4-^6\), four research articles\(^7-^10\) and one perspective article\(^11\) have been published to display the wide range of interesting topics that will be considered by the IJB editorial board. These topics include bioprintable hydrogels, *in situ* bioprinting, food printing, stem cell printing, scaffold printing, and vascularization.

To further encourage research in this area, our publisher, Whioce Publishing Pte Ltd, has decided to waive publication charges for the first two issues of the journal’s first volume. Therefore, we strongly welcome all who are interested in bioprinting research to join us as authors, reviewers or editorial board members. It is the hope of the entire editorial team of IJB that this journal will fulfil the needs of those specialising in bioprinting and facilitate discourses and advances in the field.

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References


