

The DBIO 100:

The BioMedical & Life Sciences Division Honors SLA's Centennial with Recognition of 100 Journals that Have Led the Way In Biology & Medicine Over the Last Century

Tony Stankus tstankus@uark.edu

Life Sciences Librarian, Science Coordinator & Professor

University of Arkansas Libraries MULN 233 E

365 McIlroy Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72701

The Idea

The BioMedical and Life Sciences Division, DBIO, put its collective professional judgment at the forefront when it decided how to celebrate the Centennial of SLA. It asked its 686 members of record, which were the 100 most influential journals in biology and medicine over the last 100 years. From its very inception, the DBIO poll was designed to be:

- **Knowledge-Based:** A panel of experienced DBIO members who worked at institutions with particularly notable biomedical and life sciences journal collections and clientele would construct the ballot.
- **Participatory:** Every DBIO member was eligible to vote.
- **International:** The panel of experts, the voters, and the journals included on the ballot were drawn from around the world.
- **Respectful of the Past:** Titles going back over 100 years were included.
- **Vital to Present Day Professional Practice:** The leading journals of today were included.

- **Useful for Future Colleagues:** This poll should assist new members for years to come with a list of working titles with which to orient themselves to the key literature of our division's clientele.
- **Available 24/7 in a Time-Saving Format for Busy Information Professionals:** SurveyMonkey®, accessed via SLA's agreement with the firm, was used as the poll's web platform. The ballot was constructed so that DBIO member could vote online at any time of day or night on every group of topically matched journals, or just in those specialty areas in which they felt they possessed their deepest technical awareness.
- **A Renewal of the Partnership between Information Producers and Information Professionals:** When the poll was finished, results would be shared and celebrated with the scientific and clinical editors and publishers whose journals made the grade.

The Team

The division was led in 2008 by Chair John Tebo, Head of the Chemistry-Biology Library at the University of Cincinnati, and in 2009 by Chair Jean Crampon, Associate University Librarian of the University of Southern California Science and Engineering Library. Three panels consisting of three experts each were recruited from the DBIO membership. Each panel composed a series of voter preference questions comparing journals in categories of biology or medicine that fell within its areas of expertise. The goal was for the final vote to yield a balanced assortment of 33 or 34 journals in each of the three following areas.

- **Clinical Medicine & Allied Health Sciences.** These were represented by Sandy Kramer, Assistant Director for Services at the University of Arizona Health

Sciences Library; Patricia Thibodeau, Associate Dean for Library Services at the Duke University Medical Center; Laurie Scott, Head of Research and Education Services of the Bracken Health Sciences Library at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

- **Molecular and Cellular Biology including Journals of Biotechnology and the Leading Multiscience Publications.** This area was managed by Steven Adams, Life Sciences Librarian at the Lewis Library at Princeton University; Karen Tempest, Head of Knowledge Management at CSL Limited, Australia's largest biotechnology firm, located in Melbourne; Mindy Thuna, the AstraZeneca Science Liaison Librarian at the University of Toronto Mississauga in Ontario, Canada.
- **Natural History.** This area was championed by Lori Bronars, Life Sciences Librarian and Reference Services Coordinator, Kline Science Library at Yale University, Eleanor MacLean, Fellow of the SLA, Liaison Librarian for Biology, Life Sciences Library at McGill University in Montreal, Canada; Constance Rinaldo, Head of the Ernst Mayr Library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

This article's author, Tony Stankus, (DBIO Director 2008-2009), the Life Sciences Librarian, Science Coordinator, and Professor at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, was the recruiter of the expert teams, the arbiter of disputes over disciplinary boundaries, and final editor of the poll.

The Timeline

The concept of the poll was approved in Seattle at the 2008 SLA International Conference during the annual DBIO business meeting. For the sake of uniformity and fair comparisons, only journals of original research and professional practice, as opposed to review, methods or semi-technical trade journals, were eligible for inclusion. The poll was constructed during September and October 2008, via repeated conference calls and e-mails within and among the three working groups of experts, and with this author. After being trialed with the cooperation of fourteen DBIO officers as well as the test's experts, the poll was finalized in late November. It was made available to the membership for voting for a month starting in early December and ending in early January. Results were tallied in time for the mid-January Leadership Summit in January 2009 in Savannah, so that the division leadership present could be apprised of its progress.

The Awards Ceremony

The annual business luncheon of the DBIO will be held at noon on June 16th, 2009, during the Centennial Conference in Washington, DC. At its end, a roll call of all 100 winners and their publishers, will be held, with certificates delivered to the publishers and editors present at their tables. Following this, the winners of the "DBIO Top 10," chosen from among the DBIO100, will be announced in an Academy Awards style presentation. The criterion for a journal's making the Top 10 is winning in a category judged by a consensus of the DBIO panel of experts as being particularly crucial to biology or medicine. From among the publishers and editors present, those with one or more of the Top 10 will be invited to come forth to the dais to claim their awards as the results of each vote are announced. In what is sure to be an exciting conclusion of the

event, they will await along with the audience for the announcement of the winner in the write-in vote in which all DBIO voters were able to select freely the single most influential “Journal of the Centennial.”

The DBIO 100

The titles in the DBIO100 are listed in alphabetical order, along with their dates of founding, the responsible print publishers and electronic version distributors, with a notation of their countries of origin if not implicit in their titles.

AJN: The American Journal of Nursing, (1900) Wolters Kluwer Health / Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins

American Journal of Botany, (1914) Botanical Society of America & HighWire Press

American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, (1952) American Society for Nutrition & HighWire Press

American Journal of Human Genetics, (1948) Elsevier’s Cell Press for the American Society of Human Genetics

American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, (1868) Elsevier for the American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society & others

American Journal of Physical Anthropology, (1918) Wiley for the American Association of Physical Anthropologists

American Journal of Psychiatry, (1844) American Psychiatric Association & HighWire Press

American Journal of Public Health, (1911) American Public Health Association & HighWire Press

American Naturalist, (1867) University of Chicago Press for the American Society of Naturalists

Anesthesia & Analgesia, (1921) Wolters Kluwer Health / Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins & HighWire Press for the International Anesthesia Society

Animal Behaviour, (1953) Elsevier for the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, UK, and the Animal Behavior Society, US

Annals. Entomological Society of America,

Annals of Emergency Medicine, (1972) Elsevier for the American College of Emergency Physicians

Annals of Forest Science, (1923) EDP Sciences, France

Annals. Entomological Society of America, (1908) Entomological Society of America & BioOne

Applied & Environmental Microbiology, (1953) American Society for Microbiology

Archives of Ophthalmology, (1869) American Medical Association & HighWire Press

Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, (1926) College of American Pathologists

Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, (1918) Elsevier for the American Congress of Rehabilitation

The Auk, (1884) University of California Press & BioOne for the American Ornithologists Union

Biochemistry, (1962) American Chemical Society

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, (1947) Elsevier, Netherlands

Biological Journal of the Linnean Society, (1791) Wiley for the Linnean Society of the UK

Biotechnology & Bioengineering, (1958) Wiley, US

Blood, (1945) American Society of Hematology & HighWire Press

BMJ: The British Medical Journal, (1840) BMJ Group, UK & HighWire Press

Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, (1855) Wiley for the Linnean Society of the UK

Botany (formerly the Canadian Journal of Botany), (1929) National Research Council of Canada

Brain & Cognition, (1982) Elsevier in conjunction with several US and international cognitive neuropsychology societies

Canadian Journal of Forest Research, (1970) National Research Council of Canada

Cancer, (1948) Wiley for the American Cancer Society

Cell, (1974) Elsevier's Cell Press, US

Chest, (1935) The American College of Chest Physicians

Circulation, (1950) Wolters Kluwer / Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins & HighWire Press for the American Heart Association

Clinical Infectious Diseases, (1979) University of Chicago Press for the Infectious Diseases Society of America

Conservation Biology, (1986) Wiley for the Society for Conservation Biology, US

Critical Care Medicine, (1973) Wolters Kluwer Health / Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins for the Society of Critical Care Medicine

Current Biology, (1991) Elsevier's Cell Press, US

Development, (1953) The Company of Biologists, a not-for-profit corporation, Cambridge, UK & HighWire Press

Developmental Biology, (1959) Elsevier for the Society for Developmental Biology, US

Ecology, (1897) Ecological Society of America

EMBO Journal, (1982) The Nature Publishing Group for the European Molecular Biology Organization, Germany

Evolution, (1947) Wiley for the Society for the Study of Evolution, US & BioOne

FASEB Journal, (1987) Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology & HighWire Press

Gastroenterology, (1943) Elsevier for the American Gastroenterological Association

Genetics, (1916) Genetics Society of America & HighWire Press

Human Gene Therapy, (1990) Mary Ann Liebert Publishers for the British Society for Gene Therapy and the European Society of Gene & Cell Therapy, and others.

Immunology, (1958) Wiley for the British Society for Immunology

International Journal of Plant Sciences, (1875) University of Chicago Press

JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association, (1883) American Medical Association & HighWire Press

Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology, (1929) Elsevier for the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

Journal of Anatomy, (1867) Wiley for the Anatomical Society of Great Britain & Ireland

Journal of Bacteriology, (1916) American Society for Microbiology & HighWire Press

Journal of Biological Chemistry, (1905) American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology & HighWire Press

Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery, (1903) The Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery, a not-for-profit corporation, US & HighWire Press

Journal of Cell Biology, (1955) Rockefeller University Press & HighWire Press

Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, (1941) The Endocrine Society, US & HighWire Press

Journal of Ecology, (1913) Wiley for the British Ecological Society

Journal of Experimental Biology, (1923) The Company of Biologists, a not-for-profit corporation, Cambridge, UK & HighWire Press

Journal of Experimental Botany, (1950) Society for Experimental Biology, UK & HighWire Press

Journal of Experimental Marine Biology & Ecology, (1967) Elsevier,

Journal of Experimental Zoology, (1987) Wiley

Journal of Fish Biology, (1969) Wiley for the Fisheries Society of the British Isles

Journal of Herpetology, (1958) Society for the Study of Reptiles & Amphibians & BioOne

Journal of Human Evolution, (1972) Elsevier

Journal of Immunology, (1916) American Association of Immunologists & HighWire Press

Journal of Mammalogy, (1919) Allen Press & BioOne for the American Society of Mammalogists

Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, (1958) American Chemical Society

Journal of Molecular Biology, (1959) Elsevier

Journal of Natural History, (1841) Informa plc/ Taylor & Francis

Journal of Paleontology, (1927) Allen Press, BioOne & HighWire Press for the Paleontological Society

Journal of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, (1909) Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics

Journal of Plant Research, (1887) Springer for the Botanical Society of Japan

Journal of Shellfish Research, (1981) National Shellfisheries Association, US, & BioOne

Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, (1976) Elsevier for the American Academy of Dermatology

Journal of the American College of Surgeons, (1905) Elsevier for the American College of Surgeons

Journal of the American Dental Association, (1913) American Dental Association & HighWire Press

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, (1953) Wiley for the American Geriatrics Society

Journal of Urology, (1907) Elsevier for the American Urological Society

Journal of Virology, (1967) American Society for Microbiology & HighWire Press

Journal of Zoology, (1833) Wiley for the Zoological Society of London

The Lancet, (1823) Elsevier's Lancet Group

Limnology & Oceanography, (1956) American Society for Limnology & Oceanography

Molecular & Cellular Biology, (1981) American Society for Microbiology & HighWire Press

Molecular & Cellular Proteomics, (2002) American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology & HighWire Press

Nature, (1869) Nature Publishing Group

Nature Biotechnology, (1983) Nature Publishing Group

Nature Structural & Molecular Biology, (1994) Nature Publishing Group

Neurology, (1951) Wolters Kluwer Health / Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins & HighWire Press

New England Journal of Medicine, (1882) Massachusetts Medical Society & HighWire Press

Nucleic Acids Research, (1974) Oxford University Press & HighWire Press

Pediatrics, (1948) Elsevier & HighWire Press for the American Academy of Pediatrics

Plant Ecology, (1949) Springer

Plant Physiology, (1926) American Society for Plant Biologists & HighWire Press

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, (1914) National Academy Press, US & HighWire Press

Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B – Biological Sciences, (1905) Royal Society of London & HighWire Press

Radiology, (1918) Radiological Society of North America & HighWire Press

Science, (1880) American Association for the Advancement of Science & HighWire Press

Systematic Botany, (1976) American Society of Plant Taxonomists & BioOne

Virology, (1955) Elsevier

Acknowledgment: The author wishes to thank Sarah Spiegel and John K. Rash of the staff of the Mullins Library of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville for their assistance in fact-checking publishers and their electronic access partners.

