



## A Review of the Review

This, the sixth issue of this magazine (and the final issue of Volume 2), provides a good opportunity for reflection on where we've been and where we're headed. Three years ago, the NIH requested applications to establish National Centers for Biomedical Computing. Each center would be required to "disseminate software, data and new discoveries to the national community." But, the NIH specified, "[journal] publications and a good website...may not be sufficient."

At the time, it was striking that there existed no major communication media—conferences, journals or magazines—devoted to the entire gamut of biomedical computation. To fill that gap, we proposed launching a new magazine, *Biomedical Computation Review*, which would specifically aim to communicate ideas among a very diverse group of researchers who share a common interest in biomedical computing, whether at the molecular, cellular, organism or population scale. Opening up new channels of communication could only lead to improving the rate of cross-fertilization of ideas between fields.

After only six issues, we've covered a very broad swath of biomedical computing. The six tables of contents read like a veritable smorgasbord of scientific fields. We've selected a mix of cross-cutting issues and in-depth articles that includes 12 feature length articles, 37 news articles, seven editorials/guest editorials, three editor's picks, six Under the Hood mini-tutorials, one book review, five Seeing Science articles exploring the boundaries of biomedical compu-

tation and the arts, and three Featured Labs. In those articles, BCR has highlighted the work of 274 different researchers from 109 institutions (about one in five outside the United States).

About 85% of the magazine content is written by professional science writers and the other 15% by community researchers. The editorial board consists of 15 members and the 12 program and science officers for Simbios provide additional valuable input and direction. Affiliated Design of Livingston, Montana, directs the magazine's layout and design, and our debut issue (June 2005) recently won an award for Excellence in Communication and Graphic Design from *Graphic Design USA*.

About 3,000 people receive the magazine in print and the website has had even more unique visitors from all over the world, with the numbers increasing every month.

As we look forward to future issues of *BCR*, we have lots of great new topics to cover. There's so much interesting material to cover in a limited number of pages so please bear with us until we get a chance to highlight the research areas that are nearest and dearest to you. Biomedical computing is advancing so rapidly on so many fronts and so we look to you, our readers, for additional input and guidance. Let us know what we're doing right or where we might do better. And proposals for written contributions are welcome. □

### Topics Covered by BCR

(Feature stories that significantly touched on more than one field are counted more than one time.)

