
Editors' Note

Energy is perhaps one of the most loosely used words in the English language. We use it to mean power, movement, activity, passion, or even life. Scientifically defined, however, “energy” is the capacity to produce change, and we, as a species, are changing at unprecedented rates. It is thus no surprise that the study of energy in all its forms is a landmark theme of modern science.

Energy and work may be studied using various approaches, from the physics of running and flying to the electromagnetism of giant quasars. In this issue, we present a sample of the exciting and thought-provoking research being conducted on energy of myriad sources and scales.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges of modern science lies in the search for new ways to har-

ness energy for widespread human consumption. The world is slowly realizing that the use of traditional energy sources is not only a fleeting option, but is also detrimental to our natural environment. Science is providing ingenious alternatives. New approaches, like biofuels and solar power, are emerging and hold promise in the quest to solve our growing energy crisis. This issue showcases these innovative advances by illuminating some cutting-edge developments in selected fields.

We hope that as you read through this issue, you are reminded of how energy permeates every aspect of your daily routine, from the biomechanics of your morning jog to your afternoon coffee break. After all, in the words of Mark Twain, “Man is nothing without energy.” **H**

Fernando Racimo, Sana Raouf, and Alexia Hwang

Editors in Chief