

Letter from the Editor

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[DOI: 10.1116/1.3539998]

This volume of *Biointerphases* has several research articles and reviews on topics at the cutting edge of Biointerphase Science and, in addition, contains an *In Focus* section on Biointerphase Science in Singapore, which highlights the rapid rise of Singapore as one of the world's leading centers in biomedical, biomaterial, and biointerphase research. Nothing seems to be impossible at the research centers and universities in Singapore, if expected to benefit economic development and attract old and new talents to set up laboratories in one of the universities or the A*STAR Research Centers. The total value of the investments, which you can read about in the preface by our guest editors Professor Bo Liedberg and Professor Wolfgang Knoll and in the commentaries by Barry Halliwell (National University of Singapore), Lim Chuan Poh (A*STAR), and Bertil Anderson and Tony Mayer (Nanyang Technical University), speaks for themselves. These numbers and the articles from the Singapore laboratories in Vol. 5 underscore that modern infrastructure and management policies are the basis for innovative research and development if not a *conditio qua non* for excellence in experimental science. The need for generous support is by no

means a new insight in how to create a competitive scientific environment. It has been the recipe for success at the courts of Europe and Asia during the past thousand years at least since Thales of Miletus (624 B.C.–564 B.C., a philosopher, mathematician, astronomer, chemist, and physicist and a very successful merchant), who is credited with stating the first law of science: *for every observable effect, there is a physical cause*. In Vol. 5 this is confirmed again. The physical cause—generous funding reflected in extraordinary infrastructure and working conditions—is the cause of what we observe: excellence in science and economic development. The sad part of the story, however, is that the reason for past economic success is periodically forgotten in our modern societies and among our political leaders. Let us hope that the “wheel” will be reinvented soon in the U.S., Japan, and Europe, otherwise Singapore's research centers and universities may get very, very, crowded.

I am sure that the collections of papers in Vol. 5 will be of interest to both young and senior scientists and will stimulate collaborations and interactions with our colleagues in Singapore.