Editorial

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Editorial

I am delighted to introduce the ninth edition of the ITB Journal, the academic journal of the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown. The aim and purpose of the journal is to provide a forum whereby the members of ITB, visitors and guest contributors from other third level colleges can publish an article on their research in a multidisciplinary journal. The hope is that by offering the chance to bring their work out of their specialised area into a wider forum, they will share their work with the broader community at ITB and other academic institutions.

This issue is dedicated to the refereed academic papers presented at the ITB Research Conference in April 2004. The ITB Research Conference is a peer-reviewed, annual, multidisciplinary event intended as an opportunity for researchers from ITB and other third-level colleges to present their work in front of an informed audience. The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) has now entered its fifth year of existence. As well as putting in place a wide range of innovating undergraduate programmes, the Institute has begun to establish a significant research profile. We currently have a number of funded research projects underway, and a growing cohort of postgraduate research students. These projects are being carried out in a range of research areas across computing, engineering, business and the humanities. Although there are many presentations from external researchers and research students, the focus of the conference is on dissemination of the range of research activity taking place at ITB. Details about the conference are available on the ITB web site at the following location: [www.itb.ie/itb_conference_2004/](http://www.itb.ie/itb_conference_2004/). The conference organisers are:

Dr. Matt Smith
Dr. Brian Nolan
Ms. Mairead Murphy
Mr Stephen Sheridan
Mr Hugh McCabe

Once again, we hope that you enjoy the papers in this “chunky” issue of the ITB Journal devoted to the ITB Research Conference papers.

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