

Some Changes, But Not in Editorial Direction

I consider it an honor to follow Matthew Tirrell as the editor of the *AIChE Journal*. Through his efforts and the editors before him, the *Journal* has been maintaining a high quality standard. It is widely read by the worldwide chemical engineering research community, as evidenced by its high impact factor based on the frequency of citations of the articles. My goal as its Editor is to uphold the high standards of relevance and quality.

Assuring the technical quality of the *Journal* depends not only on the important contributions of the authors and reviewers, but also on the group effort of the Editor, the Associate Editors and the editorial staff at the Institute, especially Haeja Han. I am pleased that this excellent team will continue to assist me. There is, however, one change. Ignacio Grossmann has agreed to join the team as an Associate Editor with main responsibility for process systems engineering, replacing George Stephanopoulos who resigned in June.

A fundamental question that arises when looking to the future of the *Journal* is what is chemical engineering? As a well-respected member of our profession was fond of saying, "chemical engineering is whatever chemical engineers do." In his 1991 inaugural editorial, Matt pointed out that chemical engineering research had expanded well beyond the core areas of the profession. This expansion has continued unabated over the last decade, and we can expect that today's frontiers will become part of tomorrow's chemical engineering core. The *Journal* must reflect these changes.

As a generalist research publication, the aim of the *AIChE Journal* is to record advances in fundamental understanding and novel applications of chemical engineering principles—both in depth and breadth. As a vibrant discipline, chemical engineering inevitably intersects other science and engineering fields. Chemical engineering researchers read specialist and generalist journals in other disciplines and, perhaps to a lesser extent, researchers who are not chemical engineers read ours. To help a researcher decide whether to submit his/her work to the *Journal* or to one of the ever-increasing number of specialized periodicals, I would like to propose a guideline. If the research has led to a significant advance in method, theory, result or application, we certainly want to consider it for the *Journal*. If, however, the accomplishment is of more limited scope or likely to be of interest mainly to specialists in the narrow field, it might not be for the *Journal*. This guideline was recommended in Matt's 1997 editorial, "Correct is Not Enough." An important challenge to all of us—authors, editors and reviewers—is to report advances, especially in the newer areas, to appeal to a broad audience, thereby expanding the horizons of our field.

I would like to publish more critical review articles of less than 10 printed pages that describe the current status of a field, recent advances and remaining important unsolved problems. Such articles have a large readership and are valuable introductions for graduate students and new researchers in a field. Since they are read by nonspecialists, they are important contributions to the generalist theme of the *Journal*. It is hoped that there will be more manuscript submissions to the *Journal* from industrial authors. The "Perspectives" section and book reviews are also of broad interest and will be increased. I would also like to encourage more Letters to the Editor, since a carefully thought-out exchange of letters can be very enlightening to others in the field.

During Matt's tenure, use of electronic communications has expanded for operational efficiency, and its online edition was launched. Together with the Associate Editors, Consulting Editors, and the AIChE Publications Staff, we will continue to explore this technology to further reduce the time between initial submission of a manuscript and its publication. We will also be studying other uses of the Internet for optimal delivery of the information related to the *Journal* articles. This could include posting of supplementary materials, the database used in developing or evaluating a model or method that others could use for comparison with their own work, or the computer code for a model or method proposed in an article.

Chemical engineering is a dynamic and expanding profession! My goal is to have this reflected in the *Journal*. To do this, I need your help in terms of submitting quality manuscripts and willingness to carefully review manuscripts in a timely manner. I also look forward to your suggestions on ways that I can continue the tradition of improving the *Journal* established by my predecessors.



Stanley I. Sandler



Dr. Stanley I. Sandler, the Henry B. du Pont Chair of Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware, becomes the 6th editor in *Journal's* 45-year history. The author of more than 250 papers, and **Chemical and Engineering Thermodynamics**, now in its 3rd ed., Sandler has served on a number of editorial boards, including **Fluid Phase Equilibria** and **Journal of Chemical and Engineering Data**. Since 1992, he has served as director of the University of Delaware's Center for Molecular and Engineering Thermodynamics.

A New York City native, Sandler received his Bachelor's degree at the City University of New York, and his PhD from the University of Minnesota. He joined the faculty of the University of Delaware in 1967 and was named du Pont Professor in 1982 and du Pont chair this year. His honors include AIChE's Warren K. Lewis Award and Professional Progress Awards, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Distinguished U.S. Senior Scientist Award.