

Passing of the Torch

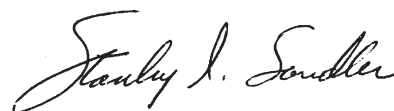
It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as editor of the *AICHE Journal* for the last 11 years. This has only been possible as a result of the assistance I have gotten from a dedicated staff of associate editors, the two assistants I have had over the years, and the staffs at both the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and at John Wiley & Sons, Inc. I also owe special thanks to all the reviewers who have given so freely of their time to insure the high quality of the *Journal*. Over the years, I have continually been amazed by the creativity and accomplishments of my colleagues in the profession as evidenced by the quality and novelty of their papers that we have published.

The *AICHE Journal* changed over the last decade. The most obvious change is that we now do everything in the Cloud. When I became editor I inherited boxes full of manuscripts, both those in progress and archived, from Matt Tirrell. Now, I merely need to give Michael Harold, my successor, a login to Manuscript Central. Also manuscripts I accept now appear on the Web in a matter of days, and in print sometime thereafter.

However, chemical engineering has changed at a more fundamental level. When I started in the profession, many years ago, chemical engineering was a much more narrowly defined field, and it could be said that if you wanted to know what research chemical engineers do, read the *AICHE Journal*. That has largely changed as the field has expanded from macroscale process and equipment analysis and design to the microscale, including biotechnology, nanotechnology, materials science, and other exciting new areas. Many faculty, and especially new faculty, work in these areas, and are more likely to publish their research in very specialized high impact scientific publications rather than in a generalist publication such as the *AICHE Journal*. Therefore, for the survival of the *Journal*, and indeed for all generalist publications, a method must be developed to retain its prominent position in an increasingly specialized profession, and in an environment in which the numbers of specialist and online publications are increasing rapidly. I have established an Emerging Areas Board to provide advice on how these new technology areas can be brought into the *Journal*. A problem for a faculty member who publishes solely in specialized journals is that their work is largely invisible to the broader field we call chemical engineering.

As many of the readers of the *Journal* are in academia, I also want to point out that this challenge as a result of a changing profession needs to be addressed in our educational programs as well. Although graduate programs and research emphases have changed in response, undergraduate programs generally have changed much more slowly. The result is a dichotomy between our graduate and research programs on one hand, and our undergraduate instructional programs on the other. This chasm needs to narrow.

Therefore, I leave as editor of the *AICHE Journal* with two challenges. The first is for my successor, Michael Harold, to keep the *AICHE Journal*, with its generalist focus, prominent and relevant in the era of increased specialization. The second is for my colleagues in academia, and it is how do we keep the central core of undergraduate chemical engineering education while training students for a lifelong career in a field that is rapidly evolving, and has already evolved, into new nontraditional areas?



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Editor