

## Editorial – A Progress Report

In my editorial one year ago I spoke about several initiatives that would be pursued in order to make progress towards our goals of

- attracting and publishing frontier, high potential impact research findings;
- educating the chemical engineering community about past and present scholars in our field;
- enhancing the experience of reading the *Journal*; and
- inspiring new ideas and innovative research tools that will promote advances in our field.

On the important issue of publication time, in the past year we have cut the queue time from ~9 months to its current ~6 months (instantaneous value based on number of papers in publication queue) through a combination of page count increase and tighter editorial standards. Our target is to get the queue time down to 2–3 months. We are also exploring ways to expedite the time-to-citation, which in the digital age may be most relevant for today's authors.

This month we are initiating a new manuscript venue called *AICHE Letters*, which replaces *R&D Notes*. *AICHE Letters* are intended to report on high impact findings that can be communicated in an abbreviated manuscript. We will carry out a rapid but comprehensive review with publication priority to ensure an expedited time to print. An *AICHE Letter* can cover any of the nine topical areas of the *Journal*, but special consideration will be given to emerging areas of chemical engineering.

The *AICHE Journal* editorial team is tasked with attracting authors who publish mostly or even exclusively in specialty journals. To this end we have a group of respected scholars who are engaging researchers in their areas to publish in the *Journal*. During the past few months we have added two new Associate Editors, Professor Sharon Glotzer from the University of Michigan and Professor Jim Liao from UCLA. We thank Professor Abraham Lenhoff from Delaware, who stepped down after capably serving as Associate Editor for several years. Sharon is responsible for soft matter, while Jim is responsible for bio-engineering, two key growth areas for the *Journal*. We have also significantly expanded our Consulting Editors Board (CEB) with leading scholars from academe and industry, representing each of the topical areas. The CEB is engaged to work with the editorial team to help us meet our goals.

In the coming year we will initiate the *Founders Tribute* series, which is intended to honor the intellectual leaders from chemical engineering research. The first Founders Tribute issue will honor Professor Neal R. Amundson, respectfully called The “Chief”. The *Founders Tribute* issue, which will comprise invited contributions from a diverse group of scholars, will help to accomplish our goals of educating the community and enhancing the reading experience.

The successful *Perspectives* series, edited by Professor George Stephanopoulos (MIT), attracts contributions from leading scholars such as recipients of major AIChE awards. We will continue with that approach but on occasion include invited *Review* articles. In addition, some of the invited *Perspectives* or *Reviews* will be accompanied by companion research articles on the same topic. This “topical cluster” is intended to elevate the latest research developments and findings from several scholars in a particular area.

Finally, at the 2012 Annual AIChE Meeting in Pittsburgh, we initiated a “Best Papers” program led by Associate Editor Professor Sotiris Pratsinis (ETH). This program is intended to identify top presentations from the Annual Meeting, and then to invite the authors to submit their work to the *Journal*. We have had a great response from the Meeting Session Chairs from the Pittsburgh meeting with their nominations. A group of the “Best Papers” will appear later this year.

As I stated last year, the editorial team is counting on you for submitting your strongest papers to the *AICHE Journal*. We will also appreciate your support and suggestions, and your help in critically reviewing manuscripts. Above all, we need the active participation from leading and emerging chemical engineering researchers to ensure the highest quality and relevancy of the *AICHE Journal*.

I hope that you enjoy our first issue of 2013.



**Michael P. Harold**