

## A Progress Report

I wanted to update you on *AIChE Journal* as we make progress towards our goals of

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

To make the *Journal* more appealing to authors, we have cut down the time to publication (from acceptance) to about 3 months. We continue to work with Wiley to expedite the acceptance-to-citation time. We are pleased to see a gradual increase in the Impact Factor, which now stands at 2.75.

The *AIChE Journal* editorial team comprises a talented group of respected scholars who are working to attract top papers from their respective areas of research. We welcome two new members to our team, Professor Norm Wagner from the University of Delaware, who is named Associate Editor of Soft Matter, and Professor Christine Hrenya from the University of Colorado Boulder, who is named Associate Editor of Particle Technology and Fluidization. Christine is stepping in for Professor Jennifer Sinclair Curtis who recently was appointed Dean of Engineering at the University of California, Davis. We express our congratulations to Jennifer on her new role and our heartfelt thanks for her 9-year stint as Associate Editor.

We have now honored three intellectual leaders in the chemical engineering field with the *Founders Tribute* series. The *Founders Tribute* issues comprise a single retrospective on the honoree, as well as original research articles from friends, academic offspring, and current and former colleagues. This past year we honored Professor John Prausnitz (Sept. 2015), following earlier tributes to Professor Robert Bird (April 2014) and the late Professor Neal Amundson (Sept. 2013). The fourth tribute issue will appear in the third quarter of 2016.

The successful *Perspectives* series, edited by Professor Ignacio Grossmann (CMU), continues to be the venue that highlights the latest developments from leaders in our field, including contributions from most of the Institute awardees.

This year we are initiating the *Advances* series. The first installment in this annual series is “Advances in Materials” appearing in the current issue, and edited by Professor Sotiris Pratsinis (ETH) who also serves as Associate Editor of Inorganic Materials. This issue highlights the latest developments in the synthesis and processing of inorganic materials, a multidisciplinary area to be sure, but to which chemical engineers are making huge contributions.

This coming year we will also initiate the *Futures* series. This series will highlight works from early-career researchers (<10 years beyond PhD). We are looking to attract active participation from this group of emerging chemical engineering researchers to ensure that *AIChE Journal* is a sustainable venue as the field continues to evolve.

In summary, we are making steady progress, but will only continue to do so if the community of chemical engineering researchers looks to *AIChE Journal* as one of the top venues in which to publish. To this end, as stated in previous editorials, the editorial team is counting on each of you to submit your strongest papers to the *AIChE Journal*. Finally, we appreciate your support and suggestions, and your help in critically reviewing manuscripts.

I hope that you enjoy the “Advances in Materials” issue.



**Mike Harold**  
Editor-in-Chief