

## EDITORIAL

### *Angewandte Weekly—Back to the Future!*

In 1898, in its 11th year, the frequency of publication of *Angewandte Chemie* was increased from fortnightly to weekly, and it continued to appear in this rhythm until 1939. In the following decades the publication frequency was altered several times, most recently in 1994, when production was changed from 12 to 24 issues per year. Now it is planned, from 2003, in the 115th year, to return to weekly publication.

**More often not thicker:  
48 issues in 2003!**

After two years of in-depth discussions over the past and future of the journal, the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board, as well as the Governing Board of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) and the publishers, decided in favor of doubling the number of issues published per year, so that from 2003, 48 issues will appear.

No future without history! *Angewandte Chemie*'s past was illuminated in the first issue of 1988, celebrating the centenary of the journal, and the Editorials from this issue can be perused at your leisure on our Homepage if they are not otherwise available. The last twenty years I know well from my experience here, and they are distinguished by the internationalization of the journal, which in part reflects the internationalization of science. At the start of my time as an editor of *Angewandte Chemie*, at the beginning of the 1980s, I hung—perhaps influenced through my postdoc time in the USA—a map of North America on my office wall. I could mark the place of origin of every manuscript that came from North America with a flag, in 1982 there was only one per month; from Japan we received only one every two months! This year I have hung up a large map of East Asia—this was long overdue considering the number of manuscripts that we receive from Japan, and is today of vital importance to keep

track of the place of origin of the rapidly increasing number of manuscripts from the other countries in this region, and in particular the People's Republic of China. Table 1 shows the number of manuscripts received in the years 1982, 1992, and 2002 (for the first six months!); the non-German contribution increased from 23 % in 1982, to 56 % in 1992, and to 84 % this year, and in the past 20 years the total number of manuscripts received per year has increased more than sevenfold!

Table 1. Number of manuscripts received by *Angewandte Chemie* in 1982, 1992, and 2002 (first six months) by country. In 1992 the preliminary decision was made to increase the publication frequency from 12 to 24 issues in 1994.

	1982 (12 months)	1992 (12 months)	2002 (6 months)
Germany	251	302	188
USA	11	136 <sup>[a]</sup>	241
Canada	4		18
Japan	6	51 <sup>[b]</sup>	177
Great Britain	5	33	53
France	11	42	39
Switzerland/Austria	7	23	28
rest Western Europe	17	69	134 <sup>[c]</sup>
rest of world	16	35	304 <sup>[d]</sup>
Total	328	691	1182

[a] USA and Canada. [b] Total East Asia. [c] Of these: Spain 49, Italy 25, Netherlands 17. [d] Of these: P.R. China 164, South Korea 49, India 45, Taiwan 12.

The growth in manuscript submissions is one factor, continued increase in quality is another. The rejection rate has increased from 18 % in 1982, to 43 % in 1992, to 59 % in 2001. In the same period the impact factor rose from 4.167 to 5.974 and now stands at 8.255 (see Figure 1); since 1996 it has remained at over 8, which, considering the huge increase in

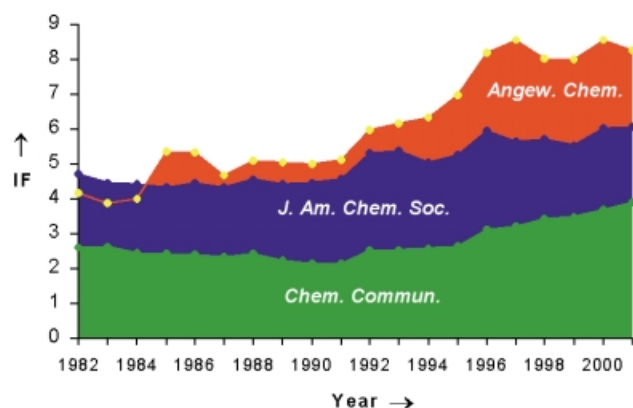


Figure 1. Development of the Impact Factors (IF) of *Chemical Communications*, the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, and *Angewandte Chemie* 1982–2001.

the number of communications (not reviews!) published per year in this time, from 521 to 868 (+ 67%), was not expected.

The picture of the journal described by these numbers would be incomplete without the many innovations that have consistently made *Angewandte Chemie* more attractive for both readers and authors. As early as 1976 the detailed table of contents was introduced in which each article is described with a short text and, when possible, an appropriate graphic. Similarly the “trade mark” *Angewandte Chemie* cover picture has been with us since 1979. The changes made in the last decade are outlined in Table 2. Naturally the change to weekly publication will be accompanied by further improvements to the journal.

Table 2. Innovations in *Angewandte Chemie* since 1991.

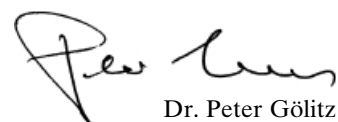
1991	New section “Highlights”
1992	Electronic manuscript administration
1993	On-screen editing of manuscripts
1994	Preview of the next issue
1995	Formation of the International Advisory Board
	Keywords to every article
	Article Finder
1997	Frontispiece for Reviews and the Communications section
1998	Press information to every issue
	Online Supporting Information for Communications
1999	Electronic full text available through Wiley InterScience
	Very Important Papers (VIPs) flagged
2000	New section “Essays”
	<i>Angewandte Chemie</i> in Medline
2001	New sections “Minireviews” and “Web Sites”
2002	Accelerated publications
	Online submission of manuscripts

Why weekly issues and not thicker issues? This question was also posed in 1993 as the change to fortnightly from monthly publication was being discussed, and on that occasion I wrote in an Editorial in the August 1993 issue: “When the latest issue is delivered, the typical curiosity-driven reader finds an hour or so to leaf through the journal and skim this or that chemical tidbit. A survey a few years ago showed that the informative table of contents was perused most intensely.” For this reason from next year this section will be even more attractive, and for authors

**Free color in the table of contents**

the use of color in the table of contents will be free of charge (this comes into force immediately). I continued “When this initial curiosity is satisfied, the issue is set aside for a while. The reader can refer colleagues to articles and join in discussions knowing that he or she must read this or that article thoroughly in a quiet moment. Students, in particular, neglect this task at their peril as examinations approach. Many other readers, however, are all too often surprised by the new issue, and the cycle starts again. Reading habits will not be affected if each issue is thicker or the publication frequency increases.” In one respect reading habits have changed drastically; today many readers look first “online” where smaller units are even more important. The curiosity-driven “reading hour” may not be possible every day, however, curiosity can be (or must be) satisfied on a weekly basis. Readers thus use their subscription (or that of their institution) more intensively, each article receives more attention. For these reasons the decision was made for more frequent rather than thicker issues. A benefit for authors is that we can publish articles in less than a month in the future should the need occur.

In 1994 as *Angewandte Chemie* increased publication frequency from 12 to 24 issues per year J. Fraser Stoddart (University of California, Los Angeles) predicted the journal would be appearing on a weekly basis by the turn of the millennium. He was wrong, but not by much. In the future we will no doubt need to further improve the selection of articles to be published, make the presentation, especially online, even more reader friendly, and remain true to our program as outlined by Wilhelm Foerst, Editor-in-Chief from 1933 to 1969: “A rousing force emanates from important findings, which, in turn inspires receptive natures to strive after achievements of their own. We produce our journal for such people. And we seek out these ‘avant-garde’. This constitutes our entire program.”

  
Dr. Peter Göllitz

PS: Recently the first Impact Factors for *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem*, the two daughter journals of *Angewandte Chemie* were announced by the Institute of Scientific Information, and in both cases these were far better than could be anticipated for such new journals. For *ChemBioChem* the Impact Factor 2.920 is well above those of other bio(in)organic journals (*Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry* and the corresponding Letters journal, for example, have Impact Factors of 1.798 and 1.747, respectively). *ChemPhysChem* with 4.217 is far ahead of all the other (broad based) journals in physical chemistry/chemical physics including both *Journal of Physical Chemistry A and B* (2.630 and 3.379), the *Journal of Chemical Physics* (3.147), *Chemical Physical Letters* (2.364), and *PCCP* (1.787).

**Impact Factors of *ChemBioChem* and *ChemPhysChem*: 2.920 and 4.217, respectively**