

Biochemistry

© Copyright 2001 by the American Chemical Society

Volume 40, Number 1

January 9, 2001

EDITORIAL

These are very eventful times for scientific journals. Electronic publishing has created new paradigms, and guiding the development of *Biochemistry* is a constant challenge. Coupled to the concerns of electronic media are the continual evolution of biochemistry as a subject and the changing needs of our readers. The Editors and Editorial Advisory Board members all agree that *Biochemistry* should remain a well-focused journal, but the focus must change as important new subject matters become important and others less important. In this regard, we will now consider manuscripts in the emerging field of *bioinformatics*. These manuscripts must meet the requirement that they represent novel interpretations of existing data and/or make experimental predictions that can be tested. They must also be judged to represent a significant advance in the field of biochemistry.

We continue to attract approximately 3000 new manuscripts a year. Our new feature, *Current Topics*, is now in full swing, and we have many more articles promised. We will gladly consider nominations, including self-nominations, for these articles. Please do not be shy! Although we publish only a few articles per year as *New Concepts*, we regard this as a valuable and unique feature.

The American Chemical Society is carrying out a major upgrade of our operating systems, including the reviewer data base and manuscript tracking. Part of this system will include on-line submission of manuscripts. We will begin receiving on-line submissions for *Accelerated Publications*, *New Concepts*, and *Current Topics* in January 2001. Special instructions to the authors of these types of papers are included in this issue. We anticipate requiring this mode of submission for these articles beginning January 2002. We will announce a time table for regular articles as soon as possible. This should speed up the processing time for manuscripts, although the rate-limiting step will remain the actual review by the referees. *Biochemistry* will continue to

require two reviews and to utilize adjudication by Editorial Advisory Board members. Although this sometimes takes a little longer, we believe that the process is fair to authors and results in high-quality publications.

I hope that you have noticed the enhanced quality of illustrations, particularly in our Web edition. The American Chemical Society has committed significant resources to their improvement, especially color. We publish color illustrations without charge, but Editors will use their discretion with regard to the use of color, as it is still quite expensive. Color should be used only when it clearly improves the presentation and understanding of the material presented. For example, there is no need to use color for most line drawings.

An important change in policy, effective January 1, 2001, is the elimination of page charges. Page charges have become an increasingly smaller part of our income, as they have remained constant for many years. In addition, most American Chemical Society journals have not levied page charges. I know that researchers will welcome this change in policy.

Finally, I regret to announce that Bill Parson and Marc Caron have stepped down as Associate Editors. Bill has served for more than 30 years and deserves a great deal of credit for the remarkable evolution of the Journal over this time. Marc has served for 9 years and has enhanced the Journal in the field of signal transduction. Their services will be sorely missed. I am pleased to inform you, however, that Gary Brudvig and Jeffrey Benovic have agreed to replace them. We are very fortunate to have attracted such outstanding scientists as Associate Editors.

As always, please do not hesitate to send words of advice or suggestions to improve the Journal. Many thanks for your generous support as reviewers, authors, and readers.

Gordon G. Hammes
Editor
BI010001J

Web Submission of Accelerated Publications, New Concepts, and Current Topics to *Biochemistry*

On January 1, 2001, *Biochemistry* will begin offering authors the flexibility of submitting Accelerated Publications, New Concepts, and Current Topics manuscripts for consideration via a secure Web site or via conventional, hardcopy submission.

An electronic manuscript template is available for preparing manuscripts in several word processing versions at the *Biochemistry* Web edition home page via <http://pubs.acs.org/journals/bichaw/index.html>. To facilitate the peer review process, authors are encouraged to employ the template to verify that their manuscript meets the page restrictions for that manuscript type. Manuscripts that exceed the mandated page limit will be returned to the author. Manuscript page limitations are as follows: Accelerated Publications, 25 pages; New Concepts, 16 pages; and Current Topics, 30 pages.

Authors are also offered the option of receiving galley proofs in hardcopy or via a secure Web site, whichever method of submission is used.

The option of Web or traditional hardcopy Article manuscript submission and galley review will be available shortly.