

# Biochemistry

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## EDITORIAL

*Biochemistry* had another good year in 1998. The number of manuscripts received was about the same as that received the previous two years, and we believe that the quality of manuscripts remains very high (although the Editors might be somewhat biased in this regard!). We have instituted a number of changes designed to speed up the review process. In particular, we strongly urge reviewers to use e-mail, either through the Web or through standard e-mail. Detailed instructions are provided in the cover letter sent to reviewers. The use of the Web edition of the Journal has begun to increase rapidly. It declined when we began charging for access, but usage is now above that when the Journal was free.

At our recent meeting of the Editors and Editorial Advisory Board, two important decisions were made. *Biochemistry* will join the ranks of many of the leading scientific journals by requiring that structural coordinates obtained in X-ray crystallography and nuclear magnetic resonance studies be released immediately upon publication. This decision followed a lengthy discussion and was overwhelmingly approved as being in the best interests of science and the Journal. At this time, there does not seem to be a good rationale for delaying the release of coordinates, as all other types of research require data to be made available upon publication. We hope that structural biologists will continue to publish their best work in *Biochemistry* as we are very proud of the many fine structures that we have published. This policy will go into effect for all articles published after July 1, 1999.

The second decision reached was to reinstate the publication of Perspectives in *Biochemistry*. They were discontinued a few years ago because of the plethora of minireviews being published. However, we now feel that the types of articles published in *Biochemistry* as Perspectives are not readily available elsewhere. These articles will be short reviews that provide the general reader with current knowledge about biochemical topics of special interest at this time. Although these articles usually will be invited, we are very receptive to suggestions from interested authors. The manuscripts will be reviewed for accuracy and clarity, and will be processed quickly so that publication should occur within a few months after receipt. More details are provided in the Instructions to Authors. We believe that Perspectives will be a useful and exciting addition.

I want to thank the readers, authors, and reviewers for their support of *Biochemistry* during this past year. Best wishes for a successful and happy year.

Gordon G. Hammes

*Editor*

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