

Statement of editorial policies

With this fourth issue, we complete the publication of Volume 1 of *Biogeochemistry*. I thank the authors, reviewers, editors, and the publisher for getting the journal off to a successful start. I would also like to take this opportunity to explain our editorial procedures.

We use a decentralized approach in editing. All manuscripts are submitted directly to me as Editor-in-Chief. If the subject matter of a manuscript is reasonably close to my area of expertise, I act as the lead editor for that manuscript and send it out for review. If the manuscript covers a subject in which one of the four Associate Editors has more expertise, I pass the manuscript on to that Associate Editor, who then acts as the lead editor and sends the manuscript out for review. In any case where I or an Associate Editor may have a conflict of interest, another Associate Editor acts as lead editor. All manuscripts are sent for review to at least one member of the Editorial Board and usually to two other expert reviewers. Generally, the lead editor for a manuscript decides whether the manuscript should be accepted, rejected, or revised and communicates this decision directly to the author. I believe this decentralized editorial policy has contributed greatly to the strength of *Biogeochemistry*.

As of this issue, the overall acceptance rate in *Biogeochemistry* is 60%. I hope you agree with me that the quality of the published papers has been high. Comments and suggestions as to how to improve the journal are most welcome.

Ithaca, New York

Robert W. Howarth